DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 424 946 PS 027 075

TITLE	Voices for Illinois Children, 1998.
INSTITUTION	Voices for Illinois Children, Chicago.
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	38p.; For 1996-1997 newsletters, see ED 404 002.
AVAILABLE FROM	Voices for Illinois Children, 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1580, Chicago, IL 60604; Tel: 312-456-0600; Fax: 312-456-0088; e-mail: info@voices4kids.org; Website: www.voices4kids.org
PUB TYPE	Collected Works - Serials (022)
JOURNAL CIT	Voices for Illinois Children; v10 n1-3 Spr-Fall 1998
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Adolescents; *Child Advocacy; Child Health; *Child Welfare; Childhood Needs; Children; *Childrens Rights; Corporate Support; Day Care; Early Childhood Education; Political Issues; *Public Policy; *State Legislation; Youth Problems
IDENTIFIERS	*Illinois

ABSTRACT

This document consists of the three issues of the "Voices for Illinois Children" newsletter published during 1998. Voices for Illinois Children is a child advocacy group that works to make kids "count" in Illinois and to ensure that the basic needs of all children, families, and communities are met. These three newsletter issues explore topics pertaining to childrearing and children's well being. The spring 1998 issue contains articles that address: (1) raising caring children; (2) breastfeeding; (3) the child care challenge; (4) Illinois child advocates; (5) state legislative update; (6) advocacy resources; (7) connecting with at-risk parents; (8) a profile of a business that cares for kids; and (9) juvenile justice legislation. The summer 1998 issue contains articles on: (1) KidCare child health insurance program; (2) strengthening families and communities; (3) advocacy update; (4) grandparents raising grandchildren; (5) Illinois child advocates; (6) importance of fathers; (7) description of the annual Kids Count Awards Dinner; (8) a profile of a business that cares for kids; and (9) focusing elections on children's issues. The fall 1998 issue contains articles concerning: (1) gubernatorial candidates' views on children; (2) Illinois' teen R.E.A.C.H. (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring, and Hope) program; (3) child care changes; (4) Illinois child advocates; (5) children's court centennial; (6) avoiding teen pregnancy; (7) making kids count on election day; (8) a business that cares for kids; and (9) networking to advance education. (SD)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 424 946

Voices for Illinois Children Newsletter

Volume 10, Numbers 1-3, 1998

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

K. B. Moore

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

1

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PS 027 075

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN
VOICES

Inside Voices

- Child Care
- Breastfeeding
- Juvenile Justice
- Advocacy Update, and more!

Volume 10, Number 1 Spring, 1998

Start Early: Connecting with Parents to Connect with Kids

It's in your voice, your touch and the time you give. Everything your baby needs to grow up healthy, strong and ready to learn comes from you. By nurturing the development that begins at birth you give your baby a good start in life.

One of the greatest challenges of the *Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* campaign is creating materials that truly connect with young, at-risk parents. Without this connection, these parents may never receive the campaign's important messages about how they can help their babies grow and learn from day one.

"The *Start Early* materials represent a unique approach to communicating with young, at-risk parents," said Voices' President Jerry Stermer. "We've invested a great deal of time and effort to make sure we can get through to these parents, and help them succeed at one of the most difficult, but rewarding, tasks they will ever face—parenting."

Laura-Marie

The campaign's primary communications materials are a video and an accompanying parenting magazine. To ensure that these materials connect with the target audience, they were designed using two innovative elements: A contemporary, upbeat style familiar to teenagers and young adults, and messages that talk to at-risk parents, without talking down to them.

For example, to increase the video's appeal and relevance with young, at-risk mothers, it includes a Chicago-based rap artist performing a new song about the role and responsibilities of young fathers.

In the same way, the parenting magazine includes a wide range of articles designed to engage the interests of young mothers. The articles—which include personal stories, horoscopes for babies and tips about relationships with the baby's father and extended family—are written in a colorful and entertaining style that conveys important information.

This balance of entertainment and information is an essential aspect of the *Start Early* materials. For example, the main theme of the video is 'It feels good to provide your child and yourself with the things that help you both grow.' At the same time, the realistic content of the video shows the significant challenges facing mothers, especially young ones.

"To ensure that our target audience will respond to these materials—and that the messages and concepts are clear—we have been conducting a series of focus groups with young, at-risk parents," said Stermer. "These groups found the materials very relevant to their lives, and responded positively to the themes they express."

Participants in the focus groups were pleased that the video includes real mothers—not actresses—discussing interactions with their babies.

(See START EARL on page 5)

Photo: Steven Becker

On March 29, over 800 participants and volunteers came out for the first *Start Early* Run & Walk to help raise funds for the *Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* campaign.

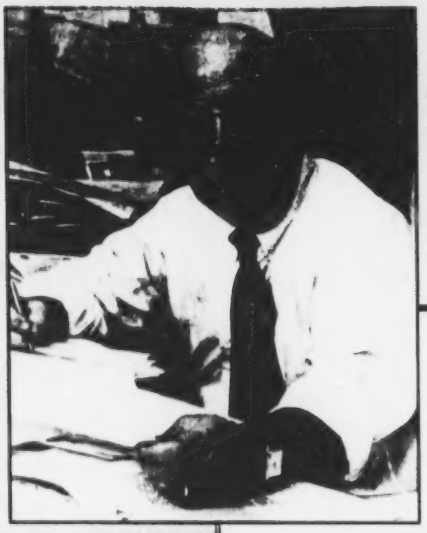
Raising Caring Kids Starts with Early Development

The educational materials developed for the *Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* campaign will be unveiled at the *Start Early* Leadership Conference in June. This will be the first opportunity for advocates, child care providers, social service representatives, legislators and parents to view the video and magazine that carry messages about how parents can help their babies grow and get ready for life's challenges.

"Raising Caring Kids" is the focus of the conference to be held in Chicago on June 5, 1998 and organized by Voices for Illinois Children and Washington, D.C. based ZERO TO THREE: National Institute for Infants, Toddlers and Families. By bringing together community leaders who work with children, the conference aims to strengthen existing programs while also exploring new ways to foster the emotional, cognitive and moral development of children.

(See DEVELOPMENT on page 4)

PS 027075



A New Way of Thinking About Child Care

A Column from Voices' President Jerome Stermer

All around Illinois, people talk about the importance of child care. So why aren't we making a serious commitment to improving the quality of child care in our state?

The main reason is that we still see child care primarily as a service for parents, rather than a crucial early step in the development and education of our children. This is a deeply ingrained mindset, and until it changes, we will never commit the resources needed to significantly improve our child care.

A growing body of research demonstrates that 90% of brain development occurs in the first few years of a child's life. These studies also show that one of the keys to full development of a child's potential is greater stimulation during these crucial early years.

For many children in our state, a significant part of this crucial stage of development will take place in child care—whether at large centers or small at-home programs. The nurturing and stimulation our children receive from child care teachers are essential steps toward the more "traditional" education that begins at age four or five. If child care does not provide this stimulation, our children may fall so far behind that they never catch up.

However, instead of recognizing child care as an essential part of the early education of our children, we continue to view child care teachers as baby sitters providing a service to parents.

This mindset has kept the average wages for child care teachers in Illinois down around $250 per week (less than half the wages of the average zookeeper.) It also helps explain why the state of Illinois requires only 90 hours of training for certification as a child care teacher, while a nail technician must receive 350 hours of training and a barber needs 1500.

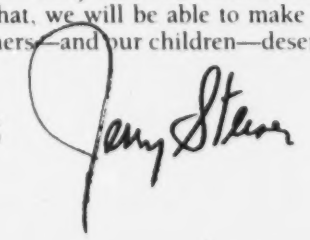
So despite everything we now know about the importance of early child development, we are still making child care the responsibility of our lowest paid and least prepared teachers.

This has to change, and it can. There are many qualified people in our state who want to be child care teachers, but since they cannot make a living in child care, most of them earn their teaching certification and move "up the ladder" as soon as possible. (This is one of the biggest challenges cited by child care organizations—they can find good employees, but they can't pay enough to keep them.)

If we want quality child care in Illinois, we need skilled, caring professionals. To get and keep them, we need to stop thinking of child care as a baby sitting service that enables parents to work—and start recognizing it as an essential part of the early education and development of our children. Once we do that, we will be able to make the commitment that our child care teachers—and our children—deserve.

"If we want quality child care in Illinois, we need skilled, caring professionals."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



Breastfeeding:
For Your Health and Theirs

There are many activities that occur between newborns and their mothers that provide lasting benefits for both. One in particular—breastfeeding—offers a variety of advantages not only for infants and mothers but for families, businesses and society as a whole.

"The real sensitive challenge is letting parents and society know there are benefits for everyone," said Dr. Mary Dobbins, a pediatrician at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Infants who are breastfed benefit in many ways. Research confirms that breastfeeding significantly decreases the risk of acute and chronic diseases. Breastfeeding also decreases the incidence and/or severity of diarrhea and reduces the chance of respiratory problems, bacterial meningitis and urinary tract infections.

At the same time, breastfeeding plays an essential role in the development of the infant. The warm, loving touch of a mother helps in the development of a self-aware, secure child. A secure child is very curious about the world and more likely to venture away from mom to explore and learn.

Mothers also get significant benefits from breastfeeding. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), lactating women return to pre-pregnant weight earlier than moms who do not breastfeed. New studies also confirm that breastfeeding reduces postpartum bleeding, the risk of ovarian cancer and premenopausal breast cancer.

"Despite all the benefits, there are still barriers that prevent women from breastfeeding," said Dr. Dobbins. "Those could include an early return to work, lack of private space with a sink for moms to express their milk, or a lack of information on breastfeeding offered before release from the hospital."

Other obstacles she noted include disruptive hospital policies, lack of routine follow-up care, media portrayal of bottle feeding as normative, and the lack of broad societal support. "We all need to be encouraging and supportive of mothers—relatives, friends, supervisors and co-workers play a role. But doctors in particular should provide moms with pumping materials and other accurate information that is not produced by formula companies."

Dr. Dobbins pointed out that most of the pamphlets in the doctors' office are written and produced by formula companies. More often than not, the information is more supportive of formula and may not give enough accurate information on how to breastfeed and the benefits that come with breastfeeding.

"We produce pamphlets too, but we don't have the marketing dollars that formula companies do," said Dr. Dobbins. "Another catch is they send you free gifts and formula so moms feel like they're getting something. Some moms just don't realize that they have free milk for as long as they breastfeed."

According to Dr. Dobbins, it is extremely rare for moms to be unable to produce enough milk for the baby, although women who have had extensive surgery may run into difficulties. The AAP advises against breastfeeding when the mother uses illegal drugs, has untreated active tuberculosis, or is infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), because in these situations it is not in the best interest of the child.

The AAP also notes that every mother that chooses to breastfeed should consult with her doctor. "I've heard moms even say that it hurt. But breastfeeding shouldn't really hurt. And if it does, the baby probably needs oral motor assistance and that's something pediatricians can help with," explained Dr. Dobbins.

Families, businesses, and society as a whole also reap benefits from breastfeeding. Breastfed infants usually have fewer illnesses, therefore more time can be spent with siblings and other family members. In turn, society sees a reduction in health care costs and businesses experience lower rates of absenteeism among employees returning from maternity leave.

Like preventive medicine and quality child care, breastfeeding fosters the healthy development of children. Parents who want to breastfeed should be encouraged and supported by doctors, employers and society.

Photo: Rich Eiferman

American Academy of Pediatrics Recommended Breastfeeding Practices

Human milk is the preferred feeding for all infants, including premature and sick newborns, with rare exceptions.

Breastfeeding should begin as soon as possible after birth, usually within the first hour.

Newborns should be nursed whenever they show signs of hunger, such as increased alertness or activity, mouthing, or rooting. (Approximately 8 – 12 times every 24 hours, usually 10 – 15 minutes on each breast.)

No supplements (i.e., water, glucose water, formula) should be given to breastfeeding newborns unless a medical indication exists.

Breastfeeding provides ideal nutrition and is sufficient to support optimal growth and development for approximately the first six months. Infants weaned before 12 months of age should not receive cow's milk but should receive iron-fortified infant formula.

Advocacy Update: Working on Behalf of Kids

There are many public policy issues in Illinois that directly affect children and families. The Start Early Legislative Agenda includes several proposals designed to ensure that more Illinois children are healthy, nurtured and well educated. Here are brief summaries of some of those issues and proposals.

Child Health Insurance

To take advantage of the money Congress has made available for insuring children in Illinois, Governor Edgar has created a task force on state child health insurance. As a member of the task force, Voices for Illinois Children has been working to ensure that any child health insurance plan is comprehensive, accessible and affordable.

State legislators have agreed that families will pay monthly premiums and co-payments for services, while the state will pay for preventive services. Advocates are concerned that cost-sharing remains affordable, and that parents will be able to enroll their children at a variety of community-based programs through a mail-in application.

Healthy Families Illinois

In FY98, the legislature added a line item and new funding for new and existing Healthy Families Illinois (HFI) sites. HFI is the home visiting program that provides new families with comprehensive support services to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to encourage healthy child development. The funding approved last year provided for five new HFI sites, two Parents Too Soon programs and the expansion of ten existing HFI programs, as well as an evaluation process and a Training Institute.

For FY99 Governor Edgar has proposed no additional funding beyond the current $2 million for Healthy Families Illinois, even though many of the Illinois communities that applied to start new Healthy Families programs last year were turned down because of insufficient funding. To ensure that this valuable initiative reaches more of the parents and children who can benefit from home visiting, Voices for Illinois Children is working to increase funding by $2 million in FY99—for a total of $4 million.

Early Education

In his FY99 budget request, Governor Edgar proposed a 15% increase in the Illinois State Board of Education's Early Childhood Block Grant, which combines funding for Pre-kindergarten, Parental Training and Prevention Initiative programs.

These programs create important early learning opportunities that help prepare children under age six to start school. While Voices for Illinois Children applauds the Governor's proposal, we are encouraging legislators to pass a 20% increase in the Early Childhood Block Grant (a $26.7 million increase over FY98) and dedicate at least $5 million to expanding full-day education and child care opportunities for children.

Child Care

As more parents move from welfare to work, there is a clear need for increased quality child care options for low-income families. Voices advocates setting aside 10% of all child care funding to improve the quality and accessibility of child care in Illinois.

In addition, we are working for several important changes in the child care subsidy system adopted last year, including:

Making the state subsidy available for families earning up to 60% of median income (eligibility is currently set at 50% of median income.)

Ensuring that the rate the state pays to child care providers keeps pace with market rates, so that low-income families are not turned away from programs because the state subsidy is too low.

Adjusting the parent co-payment schedule so that good child care programs are accessible to all children.

VOICES SENDS REGULAR FAX ALERTS ON THESE AND OTHER ISSUES CONCERNING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN ILLINOIS. IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE FAX ALERTS OR IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WRITING YOUR LEGISLATORS REGARDING THESE ISSUES, CALL VOICES AT (312) 456-0600.

Y2-DEVELOPMENT

(continued from front page)

"We must be aware of every aspect of child development, not just the educational and nutritional issues," said *Start Early* Project Director Joan Vitale. "The ability to distinguish between right and wrong is developed from an early age and is contingent upon our environment and daily interactions with others."

Babies are born with all the neurons needed to learn—about 100 billion neurons—and their brains immediately begin recording experiences and storing them for future reaction to similar situations. If an infant is confined to violent or chaotic environments in his early years, he is more likely to develop aggressive behavior as he grows.

To explore this aspect of child development, the keynote speaker at the *Start Early* conference will be Robin Karr-Morse, author of *"Ghosts From the Nursery: Tracing the Roots of Violence."* Karr-Morse has conducted research on violence in youth to learn about its origins. Her studies have focused on the moral development of children and how our environment and experiences shape us from an early age.

According to Karr-Morse, violent crimes are being committed by younger offenders which is why research needs to focus on the early years. "The seeds of this problem are being sown in the womb and are well set by preschool," said Karr-Morse.

The address by Karr-Morse will help participants better understand the beginnings of moral development and the challenges of "Raising Caring Kids." "Experience in our lives is the architect of the brain," said Karr-Morse. "The brain is use dependent. When you think about a baby who is being subjected to abuse and neglect, that child is building a very different kind of brain than a baby who is being tended to, nurtured, loved, and valued."

Conference participants will examine the many different aspects of early childhood development, and discuss how they are affected by current programs and policies in Illinois. "We're most excited about this conference because participants will be able to shape ideas on the different ways we can nurture the development of children in the first three years of life," said Vitale.

The *Start Early* campaign is a multi-year public awareness project led by Voices for Illinois Children and made possible through grants and assistance from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, the Harris Foundation, The Ounce of Prevention Fund, Family Focus, Popely & Company, Inc. and R.J. Dale Advertising & Public Relations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE OR THE *START EARLY* CAMPAIGN CALL VOICES AT (312) 456-0600 OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.VOICES4KIDS.ORG

Photo: Casey Stills

A reading class at North Avenue Day Nursery in Chicago.

The Child Care Challenge

Illinois is faced with many child care challenges. Last year the legislature put in place a new system of child care that enables families at or below 50 percent of the state's median family income to access a child care subsidy. Although the Governor added $100 million to child care in FY98, there are still significant issues to be addressed, such as parent co-payments, subsidy payments to providers, and adequate pay for child care teachers.

"Co-payments have been changed, and now, for some people, they are not affordable," said Brazilian Thurman, associate director of Community Coordinated Child Care in DeKalb, and a Voices board member. "We're hearing more and more parents say they can't afford the new co-pay. So I pose the question: where are they taking their kids when they pull them out of licensed child care programs?"

Studies have shown parents often rely on other child care options within their financial needs, such as taking their children to a relative or a neighbor. Although sending children to a family member or a trusted friend may be comforting to the parents, it is not always the best source for educational and social development of young children.

Another problem with the current child care system is its lack of support for low-income parents who are working part-time, attending school, or in training programs. Since these parents are not enrolled in TANF, they are no longer eligible for child care subsidies. If they are unable to find affordable, quality child care, they may be forced to quit their jobs or leave school.

However, there is a legislative proposal that would allow families receiving child care subsidies to maintain eligibility until their incomes reach 60 percent of the median level and would allow non-TANF families to access child care while in education and training programs.

"It's short sighted on the state's part. There are so many parents with two years of college who could enhance their earning power by finishing school," said Thurman. "Not being able to continue your education is a barrier. You can find a job but it won't boost your salary."

A challenge in ensuring quality child care is providing better pay for the teachers who play such an important role in the early development and education of children. The current low wages make it difficult to find and keep qualified teachers, and the resulting high turnover makes it harder to maintain a stable child care environment.

An increase in wages has been a concern to child care providers. In Illinois, child care providers earn $250 per week, which is less than half the wages of the average zookeeper. "Even though some child care providers have four year degrees, their salary is not the same as elementary school teachers," said Thurman.

A quality child care program is also dependent upon the provider's training. Child care teachers in Illinois are required to complete only 90 hours of training for certification, while a barber needs 1500 hours. Teachers who are well trained and work to improve practices produce better outcomes for children.

As Illinois continues to review our child care system, we need to focus on the importance of affordability, quality and stability. All of these factors are essential to parents who are trying to find child care that will foster the educational development of their children. ◆

START EARLY
(continued from front page)

They liked seeing other young mothers talk about the joys and hardships they face, from the pleasure of watching the baby's eyes follow objects for the first time, to the days when he or she just won't cooperate. "It's good to know that other people are going through the same problems you're going through," said one young mother.

One focus group participant was also happy to see the video address the need for parents to eat well, exercise, rest and spend time with friends, recognizing that all mothers—especially mothers of newborns—need time for themselves. "I like the part 'take care of yourself' because most videos you see, it's all about the baby, the baby, the baby. You still need to take care of yourself too," she said.

Another innovative aspect of the *Start Early* campaign is the plan for distributing the materials, which will be provided to approximately 33,000 young, at-risk mothers in the Chicago area during the initial stage. The materials will be distributed through 85 community sites, including hospitals, local service organizations, Parents Too Soon programs and WIC outlets, which were selected because of their established relationships with the target audience. ◆

The Voices for Illinois Children
Start Early. Learning Begins at Birth campaign posters.

Network News:

Illinois Advocates Dedicated to Serving Children

All across Illinois people are working hard to make a difference in the lives of children. Whether it's creating new programs or expanding existing efforts, every helping hand brings new opportunities to children, families and their communities. Here are just a few of the people dedicated to raising their voice for Illinois children.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Good things happen when a community comes together. Residents in Champaign helped raise $90,000 to re-open a burned out shelter for runaway and homeless youth called Roundhouse. Regional Executive Director **Ron Stuyvesant** heads the facility, which provides outreach services, crisis placement, family counseling and follow-up counseling to residents in Champaign, Ford and Iroquois counties. Roundhouse is the youth residential component of the Youth Services Program of Children's Home & Aid Society of Illinois.

Children's Home & Aid Society and **Best Interest of Children (B.I.O.C.)** are working together to prepare teen parents for independence. Children's Home & Aid Society provides short-term emergency shelter for homeless teens and their children, and creates an individualized service plan. B.I.O.C. then provides parent support, educational sessions and community resources to help parents and children overcome challenges that life presents.

CHICAGO

A new educational facility will soon be available for children in the Robert Taylor Homes, a low-income housing project. **The Ounce of Prevention Fund**, Chicago Public Schools, the State of Illinois, and the Harris Foundation broke ground in March on a new Educare center. The center—located between Du Sable High School and Farren Elementary School on Chicago's south side—will provide full-day, full-year child care for children between the ages of three months and five years.

Ounce of Prevention ground breaking **(left to right): Alderman Dorothy Tillman; Linda Carson, Region 5 Head Start; Lula Ford, Chicago Public Schools; Irving B. Harris, Harris Foundation; Carrie Brooks, Illinois Department of Human Services; and of course, the kids.**

EAST ST. LOUIS

Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation, is working with Touchette Regional Hospital to reduce infant deaths. The Foundation will receive an $800,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create programs that focus on reducing teen pregnancy, educating the community, and providing case management to high-risk mothers and infants.

MILAN

Located just south of Rock Island, Just Kids Child Care recently celebrated their expansion. With donations totaling $457,000, they've expanded the original facility, which now includes a site for school age students. **Vera Hinrichsen**, the executive director for 22 years, says the success of the program is due to her dedicated staff—proudly noting that fifty percent of them have been with Just Kids for more than 10 years.

OLNEY

The Opportunity Center recently received a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education to create a new program called "All Babies Can." Under the leadership of Project Coordinator and Child Development Specialist **Bev Harrison**, ABC will provide home based services to infants between birth and three who may be at-risk of developmental delays. The program will focus on preparing children for the challenges of school through early learning activities. Currently in its start-up phase, the program will serve a five county area: Crawford, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland, and Wabash.

QUINCY

Parenting Pals is winding down its 57th class geared toward first-time teen parents. The 18-week program, funded by the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Services – Adams/Brown Unit, educates teen parents on child development issues including health, language, play, indoor and outdoor safety, and discipline. The program also focuses on goal setting, self-esteem and coping skills for the parents. Parenting Pals Coordinator **Jackie Kaelke** is proud to head the first Parenting Pals program in the state, but says it's time for other sites to be developed.

Cheerful Home Association, the oldest licensed day care facility in Illinois, is preparing for national accreditation. Executive Director **John Roope (shown)** and Program Director **Melinda Murk** are excited about their accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children. "We always offered top quality child care, but this gives us the recognition of the quality care that we've always provided," said Roope. Founded in 1886, Cheerful Home Association held Quincy's first Kindergarten class, first well-baby clinic, and the first home for the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts.

ROCK ISLAND

Rock Island will be the home of a new Children's Advocacy Center. Through the efforts of the State's Attorneys Office and other agencies, the Child Abuse Council in Rock Island County received a grant from the Department of Children and Family Services to start up the Children's Advocacy Center. The new center will provide services to children under 18 who are the victims of child sex abuse. **Jennifer O'Hare**, coordinator for the Children's Advocacy Center, says the new facility is designed to offer victim-friendly services, decrease trauma to the child, and increase the prosecution rate of offenders.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

In March, Voices held a budget briefing that provided information on spending for children and families in Illinois. Advocates, social service providers and policy makers joined in a discussion of the FY99 state budget and the impact it will have on children and families. Speakers included the Director of the Illinois Bureau of the Budget **Steve Schnorf** (shown), James Nowlan from the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois, Representative Carol Ronen (D-Chicago) and Representative Mark Beaubien (R-Wauconda).

Voices' President **Jerry Stermer** has been elected to the National Association of Child Advocates' Board of Trustees. NACA is devoted to the creation and support of state and community-based child advocacy organizations that ensure safety, security, health and education of children.

The state Child Support Advisory Committee recently elected Stermer Chair of the committee. He was appointed to the legislatively mandated committee by the Director of Illinois Department of Public Aid, **Joan Walters**. The group, comprised of legislators, agency administrators and advocates, works to develop plans to improve the state's child support system.

Voices is collaborating with the Parent Leadership Network, a statewide group of parents, advocates, state agencies and social service providers. The network recruits parents to become more active with advisory groups that plan, implement and evaluate services and programs for children and youth. A second annual parent symposium is in the planning stage.

Alan Simpson (shown), **Aniccia Miller** and **Jenea Johnson** recently joined the staff at Voices. Simpson is the Director of Communications, Miller is the *Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* Program Associate, and Johnson is the Administrative Assistant.

IF YOU KNOW A PERSON OR A GROUP THAT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED FOR GREAT ADVOCACY EFFORTS, CALL **MARJORIE NEWMAN** AT (312) 456-0600, EXT. 564.

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN
NETWORK NEWS
208 S. LASALLE ST., SUITE 1580
CHICAGO, IL 60604

E-Mail: info@voices4kids.org

Voices for Illinois Children:
For Your Information

Child Support

Illinois policy makers have adopted a series of new rules to improve collection in the growing numbers of child support cases. (In FY96, Illinois had 567,966 child support enforcement cases, of which 206,838 were families on TANF.) Illinois enforces child support compliance by withholding drivers licenses, requiring companies to report new hires every twenty days, and requiring employees, contractors and licensees to be current on child support.

Although the state is making improvements in child support collection, only a small portion of the collection goes to the families that need it most. Families receiving TANF must sign over their rights to child support to the state, and although the average monthly child support payment made on behalf of a family receiving TANF is $200, the family receives only $50 (even if there is more than one child support order being paid to the family). The rest is kept by the Department of Public Aid as reimbursement for the TANF grant.

There are several steps Illinois officials can take to improve the system for children and families:

- Allow families on TANF to keep more than $50 of their child support payment by providing a $50 "pass-through" for each child on a support order.
- Adopt a 2 for 3 Pilot Program, similar to Work Pays, allowing families to keep $2 out of every $3 in child support collected on their behalf.
- Keep all funds in the Child Support Enforcement Program. Currently 10 percent of the money in the Child Support Enforcement Program is transferred to the General Revenue Fund. Voices for Illinois Children supports Governor Edgar's proposal to keep these funds in the Illinois Department of Public Aid, where they can be used to make needed improvements in paternity establishment and to pursue parents who are not paying child support.

Welfare Reform

Illinois ranked tenth in the United States for its efforts to improve the quality of life for people transitioning from welfare to work according to a new study by the Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy at Tufts University. The report evaluated state programs on benefit levels and eligibility, time limits, employment assistance, income and asset development, child care development, and services available for poor legal immigrant families with children.

The states received scores based on how their policies are likely to impact the economic security of the majority of poor families needing to turn to the state for assistance.

As part of federal welfare reform, each state can now determine the shape and scope of its support system for low-income families. The law limits eligibility to 60 months over the course of a person's life. The goal is to move 40 percent of the welfare population into work or work-related activities by the year 2000. Currently, Illinois has succeeded with 26 percent of the population.

Due to Illinois' "Work Pays" program, when TANF recipients begin working, their assistance is only reduced $1 for every $3 earned. Medical care and food stamps continue to be awarded.

But Illinois must continue to provide funding and assistance to these families. As more families move from welfare to work, many will be in need of quality child care, affordable health care and training programs that will help them get better jobs in the future.

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the GWFC–Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs held a Fashion Show & Luncheon April 4 at the Marriott in Oak Brook. The fashions were supplied by York Furriers of Elmhurst, and Von Maur of Lombard. Proceeds from the fashion show and the sale of Puffkins (stuffed animals available in 75 varieties) will be given to Prevent Child Abuse - Illinois, Parents Anonymous, and Voices for Illinois Children.

"We've been very fortunate to work with these groups," said Jackie Haddad, special emphasis chair of the women's group. "They have provided us with a lot of information to pass on to other clubs."

Also during Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs is sponsoring the "Never Shake a Baby" campaign to educate the public on the dangers of shaking infants and young children.

"Child abuse is in all economic sectors," said Haddad. "If we can get the message out, if we can make a difference, that's what it's all about."

The GFWC-Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs motto is "Our Promise: A Safe Place for Every Child," and the group was instrumental in lobbying for an increase in Healthy Families Illinois. For more information or to place an order for Puffkins, call (312) 939-0835.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Business Cares for Kids
AN UPDATE

Two years ago a survey of public opinion in Illinois was conducted for the Chicago Community Trust to gauge the public's perception of the magnitude and geographic reach of the problems facing children in our state. When participants were asked which groups they thought were contributing to finding solutions to those problems, business leaders were perceived to be doing the least.

Voices for Illinois Children's Business Cares For Kids was designed to demonstrate that business leaders are making significant contributions to improving conditions for our children. Many visionary companies in Illinois are making a difference for kids by:

- *Initiating and maintaining policies that help employees balance work and family;*
- *Taking a strategic approach to corporate philanthropy by directing in-kind and cash support to where they can have the greatest impact for children;*
- *Encouraging employee volunteerism to benefit kids;*
- *Using their company's products or services to communicate a positive message for children;*
- *Being a leader for children in the public policy arena.*

A growing number of those visionary companies are coming together through the Business Cares For Kids Corporate Roundtable.

The Corporate Roundtable is a quarterly meeting which presents opportunities for businesses to learn from one another about how corporate leadership can help solve the problems facing the children in our state. Bank of America will host the next Corporate Roundtable meeting on Thursday, April 30, 1998 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will include an update on Voices' *Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* campaign. ◆

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BUSINESS CARES FOR KIDS, CONTACT JIM PERRY AT: (312) 456-0600, EXT. 552.

Business Cares for Kids
PROFILE

Panasonic

Matsushita Electric Corporation of America, an overseas subsidiary of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., in Osaka, Japan, has long been recognized throughout the world as a manufacturer of high quality consumer and industrial electronics products sold under the brand names of Panasonic, Technics and Quasar. Currently employing approximately 980 people at four facilities in the state of Illinois, Matsushita/Panasonic employs over 270,000 people in 44 countries.

In 1989, Panasonic introduced a formal corporate outreach program to organize, supplement and support existing community-based programs. This effort is grounded in the thinking of its founder, Konosuke Matsushita (1894–1989). "All business activities are inextricably linked to society," said Mr. Matsushita. "It is unconscionable that a company that produces goods and employs great numbers of people should make no real positive contribution to society. Thus, social responsibility on the part of a business enterprise is founded on its awareness and pursuit of the goal of improving human society through its business activities."

Photo: Jerry Dalagar

Panasonic Company Central Market Development Manager, Galen Harry, during a visit at the Dorothy de Lacey Center in Carpentersville.

Through the Youth Leadership Academy, a collaborative effort with Elgin Community College, students have the latest video technology at their fingertips as they work together to plan, produce, direct and execute an actual news broadcast. This idea was a result of Panasonic's "Kid Witness News" – a hands-on video education program that has worked with more than 36,000 students in over 200 schools nationwide.

In Illinois, Panasonic is also involved in on-going business partnerships with various elementary schools providing employees, parents and children the opportunity to participate in a wide array of activities such as Pen Pals, Honor Roll receptions, science fairs, warehouse tours, technology reviews and much more.

Nationally, the company sponsors the Panasonic Academic Challenge which involves teams of high school students competing in a college bowl format for over $31,000 in scholarship money. The Challenge is conducted in June each year and has become one of the nation's premier academic competitions.

Panasonic is committed to supporting community-based organizations and programs like these by using partnerships between employees and members of the community to provide educational opportunities for families and children. Through these varied contributions, Panasonic shows how *Business Cares For Kids.* ◆

Your Voice: Is It Justice or Just Politics?

By Frank Kopecky

Frank Kopecky, a professor at the University of Illinois at Springfield-Center for Legal Studies, is well versed in juvenile justice legislation. Kopecky is also a member of the Juvenile Justice Committee for the American Bar Association and a Voices board member. Here Kopecky discusses the state and federal juvenile justice bills and the consequences they may have.

In January of this year the Illinois General Assembly passed legislation (S.B. 363) that changes the way juvenile delinquency cases are handled. It adopts an approach to controlling delinquent behavior that makes greater use of the court system, detention and correctional facilities. On the positive side, the bill does authorize each county to develop a delinquency prevention agency. However, at this time no funds have been appropriated for prevention programming in Illinois. Voices for Illinois Children joined a coalition of groups opposing this legislation, and as a result of our efforts, several revisions were made that removed some of the more punitive aspects of the bill. Unfortunately, Congress is also considering federal legislation (S. 10) to change the focus of juvenile justice from prevention to punishment.

It is politically popular—particularly in an election year—to promote legislation that appears to be tough on juvenile crime. Ironically, despite all the rhetoric, the Illinois legislation does not focus on the serious violent offender but instead will bring less serious offenders into court more rapidly. The bill requires the state police to maintain a file of all juvenile arrests (rather than convictions) regardless of the age of the youth or the seriousness of the offense. Proponents argue that this legislation is based on a model of accountability and restorative justice. The idea is to let young offenders know that there are consequences for their actions. While there is nothing wrong in the abstract with this concept and the proponents are well intended, the implementation of the new legislation may turn out to be a costly mistake for both the children and the taxpayers of Illinois.

By focusing attention on first-time and petty offenders, the legislation will divert important correctional resources from youth who are a threat to public safety to youth who will in all likelihood mature into responsible adults without the need for costly correctional intervention. Social research shows that most children engage in some form of criminal activity during their teenage years. Is it really necessary to give these youth juvenile records, which may at a later date come back to haunt them? The current juvenile justice system does not ignore first-time offenders, but tries to intervene informally and provide services without labeling the youth as delinquent. Prevention services in the form of better schools, more recreational programs, and specialized after school activities should be available for all youth. Voices for Illinois Children has been a strong proponent of this more holistic approach to prevention.

The state legislation also creates yet another method for transferring youth into adult criminal proceedings. The increased role for the State's Attorney under this legislation may lead to mores cases being filed. It is feared that the legally trained State's Attorneys will have a greater tendency to use the court system rather than informal means of holding youth accountable. If this occurs there will be more young persons in detention and in correctional facilities. Youth advocates fear that the net result will be that the new method will be used for those youth who currently are placed on probation. If this fear materializes, the number of youth in residential correctional facilities will increase dramatically, with huge fiscal implications.

While the Illinois legislation (S.B. 363) may lead to a more punitive juvenile justice system depending on how it is implemented in each county, the bill pending in Congress (S. 10) is clearly punitive. This legislation would repeal the restrictions on housing youth in county jails and would require records of all juveniles who are arrested. These records would be accessible by law enforcement and educational officials. This legislation would make federal funding available to build youth detention and correctional facilities. Prevention programming is barely provided for under this federal legislation. From an Illinois perspective, passage of this federal "get tough on crime bill" is likely to assure the implementation of S.B. 363 in a manner that emphasizes punishment rather than prevention.

At this time youth advocates need to urge our congressional representatives and senators to oppose S. 10. We then must work to assure that the new legislation in Illinois is implemented in a manner that minimizes the risk to children. The key seems to be development of prevention alternatives in each county that may be used instead of the formal court and correctional system. If alternatives are available, many State's Attorneys may exercise their discretion and utilize them. Voices for Illinois Children must continue to stress the need for positive developmental programming for youth that is far removed from the authoritarian and stigmatizing court system. ◆

1998 Kids Count Awards Dinner

Voices for Illinois Children is holding its 1998 Kids Count Awards Dinner on Tuesday, June 2 at the Renaissance Chicago Hotel. The annual dinner is designed to honor those individuals, corporations and communities that are helping our children grow up healthy, safe and well educated.

In keeping with Voices' *Start Early* campaign, this year's Kids Count Awards will help bring focus to the importance of literacy and early learning. Irving B. Harris will receive the Individual Award for his work in educating policy makers and voters, influencing public policy and promoting research and training in early childhood development.

The Program Award winner—Reading is Fundamental–Chicago—encourages reading by distributing free books to children, and organizing numerous reading-related activities. The Corporation/ Foundation Award goes to WGN-TV for its focus on children's issues through a broad range of programming efforts. The Community Advocacy Network – Bloomington, which works to fund solutions for child abuse and neglect, will receive the Community Award for promoting the establishment and support of Healthy Start McLean County which follows the model of the Healthy Families America program.

Voices is also honoring former First Lady Barbara Bush who, while unable to attend, has provided her acceptance remarks on video tape. Mrs. Bush has played a prominent role in the national dialogue about improving child and family literacy.

This years' dinner chair is Thomas L. Fisher, Chairman, President and CEO of Nicor Gas. The event committee is co-chaired by Jo Minow, an author of children's books and Voices Board Member Lorraine Barba of Kenilworth. ◆

Our Future...?

By Shante Brown

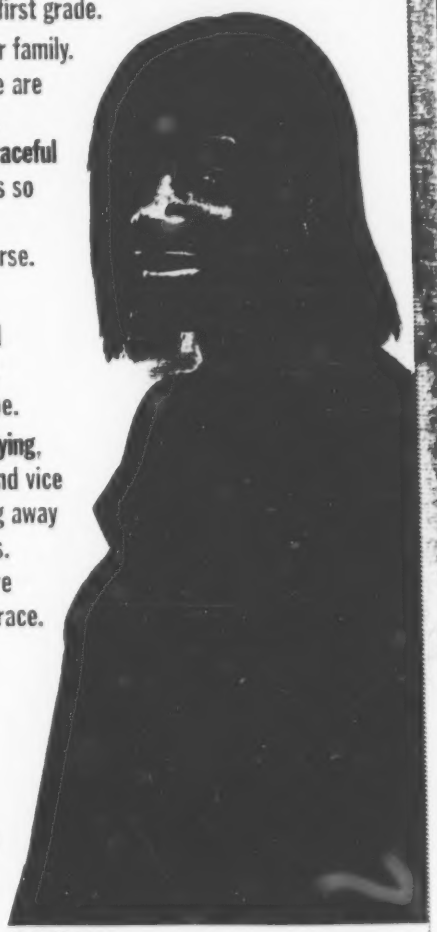
The number of Illinois families experiencing violent deaths is growing. In this poem, Shante Brown, an eighth grade student at Haven Middle School in Evanston, reflects on the tragic death of her aunt.

The right to bear arms is alive and well in America.
Guns on the street are alive and well.
Guns in our homes are alive and well.
Guns in our ten-year-olds' backpack are alive and well.
And unless we do something about it. It's going to get **worse and worse.**

Over the years **so many people have lost** their mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. I too was one of those people that suffered the great loss of a family member to unnecessary violence. She was murdered last May. **Got shot in the head.** Bullet went straight through and lodged in the back.

Mother's Day just happened to be right around the corner. Didn't get to see her older son graduate high **school** or see her younger son go to first grade.

This could happen to your family. It's not fair that people are deprived of their lives, because of these **disgraceful killing machines.** Life is so hard already without someone making it worse.



Shante Brown

It could be that we're all living happy lives. Full and prosperous, maybe.
Or maybe **children are dying, mothers are crying**, and vice versa. They're slipping away and dropping like flies. Slowly but surely we're killing off the human race.
So if not you?
Who?
And if not now, when?
When?

Education is the key to personal power.
Not violence!

Advocacy Resources: Know Your Facts

Here's a list of Voices resources that can help us all become better advocates for young people.

Illinois Kids Count (1997-1998): Learning Begins at Birth
While focusing on recent brain research and the importance of early education for children, this report provides child well-being statistics by county and outlines an agenda to improve the lives of children.
• *$12 for members;* • *$15 for non-members.*

A Child Advocate's Guide to Fear-Free Fact Finding
This guide shows how to locate data on children and families, provides equations for calculating basic statistics, and also includes detailed lists of national and Illinois-specific education, economic, child welfare and health data sources.
• *Complimentary.*

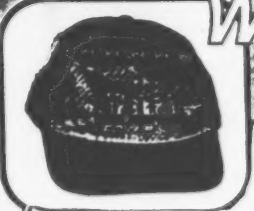
Falling Through the Gap: Uninsured Children in Illinois
The report breaks common stereotypes of the characteristics of Illinois' 310,000 uninsured children, profiles families trying to cope with having no insurance, and offers solutions to the increasing problem of uninsured children.
• *Complimentary.*

Ten Things Every Child Needs
This fascinating 11-minute video, produced by WTTW/Channel 11 and supported by the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, shows 10 easy things parents can do to dramatically aid in the development of their baby.
• *Limited quantities are still available.*

Special Report: Proposed FY1999 Budget Overview
This report reviews state appropriations for primary and secondary education, early childhood education, health, programs for at-risk youth, corrections, income support and employment assistance.
• *Complimentary.*

MANY VOICES PUBLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE. VISIT US AT WWW.VOICES4KIDS.ORG.

Wear it with Pride!



THE VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN BASEBALL CAPS ARE A PERFECT WAY TO SHADE THE SUN THIS SUMMER. THIS KHAKI HAT HAS A NAVY BRIM WITH AN EMBROIDERED VOICES LOGO. THE BASEBALL HATS ARE $16 EACH ($14 FOR MEMBERS).

CALL JUNIA JOHNSON AT (312) 456-0600 TO ORDER A HAT, OR COMPLETE THE ORDER FORM ON OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.VOICES4KIDS.ORG.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN IS A TAX-EXEMPT CORPORATION UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CODE SECTION 501(C)(3) AND IS NOT CLASSIFIED AS A PRIVATE FOUNDATION. CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOICES TAKE ON AN INFINITE VARIETY OF FORMS.

WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY DURING THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 1997 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 1998.

Businesses, Foundations and Corporations

Bank One, Illinois, NA
Fel-Pro Mecklenburger Fnd.
Fundables, Inc.
GATX Corporation
Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund
JLS Corporate Services, Inc.
Kirkland & Ellis Fnd.
Kraft Foods
Motorola Fnd.
Nicor Gas
Pittway Corporation Charitable
R.R. Donnelley and Sons Co.
Robert R. McCormick Tribune Fnd.
Sara Lee Fnd.
The Annie E. Casey Fnd.
The Chicago Community Trust
The Harris Fnd.
The Mulvihill Family Fnd.
The Northern Trust Company
Travel Service Corp.
WPWR-TV Channel 50 Fnd.

Individuals & Groups

Ann and Robert Adams
William Albers, M.D.
William Alfini
Margaret W. Allison
Dan Alpert
Claire Alport
Sharon Z. Alter
Nancy A. Amos
Mildred and Kenneth Andersen
Susan E. Anderson
Miriam G. Apter
Tina M. Arndt
Michelle Arnold and Paul Martin
Barbara Kay and Delbert Arsenault
Lucy and Peter Ascoli
Patricia Ashby
Lorraine and Randolph Barba
Ronnie Barclay
Donna and William Barrows
Marsha Barton and Osborne Lytle
Maria Bechily and Scott Hodes
Julia and John Beckman
Terry and Marc Beem
Madonna and Robert Beggin
Elizabeth H. Bennett
Jay E. Berkelhamer, M.D.
Senator Arthur Berman
Susan and Ira Bernstein
Jean and George Bernstein
Doris and Stuart Bernstein
Connie Bernt
Carla Berry
Judith G. Bertacchi
Elizabeth Birt
Darrow S. Bishop
Jeanette and James Bitter
Katharine and Frank Bixby
Margaret R. Blackshere
Judith and Philip Block
Paula Jorde Bloom
Robert B. Bloom, Ph.D.
Louise A. Blosten
Jean and Sidney Blustein
Brenda Bogusch
Lydia and Michael Bologna
Carolyn and Robert Bonjean
Judy and Peter Bordwell
Richard W. Bowen
Jill Brennan
Susan Brenner
Gerald Brookhart
Marlene and Bruce Brown
Stuart Brown, Jr.
Thomas A. Brusstar
Eloy Burciaga
Michael Burke
Jean and Donald Burkholder
Stanley Calderon
Hugh Calkins
Margaret Callaghan
Missy Campion
Velaine Carnall
Nancy G. Carroll
Ann Carton
Candy Cash
John W. Castle
Nancy D. Castle
Katherine Christoffel
Myrna Christopherson
Florence and Ronald Ciskoski
Shelly and Michael Clayton
Debby Clinch
Richard G. Cline
Chrissie and Andy Cohen
Jane Richman and Marvin Cohen
Franklin Cole
Marge Collens
Stanton R. Cook
Margarete and John Cooke
Mary and Daniel Cotter
Ann Courter and Norman Hirsch
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crowe
Jeanne Crowley and Peter Bernstein
Rosemary Crowley & Morton Arnsdorf
Anita and John Cummings
Barbara Flynn and David Currie
Sally and Jack Daniels
Mary E. Davidson, Ph.D.
A. Todd Davis, M.D.
Abram and Abram Davis
Barbara and Michael Davis
Elaine Dawe
Margery de Schweinitz
Roxanne J. Decyk
Jan Deissler
Quinn and Robert Delaney
Charlotte Des Jardins
Amy T. Dickinson
Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Drickamer
David Dupper
Marion Ann Durham
Nancy J. Edler
Alvina M. Eineke
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Elson
Nancy and James Elson
Scott Emery
Linda and Jon Ender
Charles Engel
Bruce Engle
Daniel Epstein and Sunni Reed
Anne and Dale Eskra
Barbara Eychaner and Tom Richardson
Rochelle and Stephen Fernands
Jean and Andy Fies
Jean F. Fisher
Joseph F. Fisher
Laura K. Fisher
Robert Fitzgerald
Rebecca and Samuel Flint
Colleen E. Flynn
Valerie and Michael Foradas
Mary I. Fraunfelter
Geraldine Freedman
Gertrude J. Freedman
Hilary Freeman
Janet and Victor Freise
Janet W. Freund
Maya and David Friedler
Richard Friedman and Marjorie Luloff
Lara Frohlich and John Bremen
Irene Gagaoudaki
Mary and Robert W. Galvin
Bryna and Edward Gamson
Susan Garrett
Nancy H. Garvey
Representative Lauren Beth Gash
Judy Gaynor
Jeanne Gerrietts
Helene and Robert Gerstein
GFWC Illinois Fed. of Women's Clubs
Gaylord and William Gieseke
Nancy and Michael Gilmore
Barbara Gladney
Gerry and Stan Glass
Louise and James J. Glasser
Ruth and Harold Goldman
Mary and Bruce Goodman
Sherry B. Goodman
Myra and Samuel Gotoff
Sally and Lawrence Gougler
Samuel Gove
Patsy and John Grady
Anthony Graefe and Rebecca Noble
Nancy and Bob Greenebaum
Murray Gruber
Ann and Stephen Guedet
Jackie Haddad
Nancy B. Hagstrom
Ramona Hall
Kathleen L. Halloran
Sallie S. Hamm
Jeanne and Timothy Hanson
Nancy and Thomas Hanson
Jim P. Harisiades
Marguerite Delany Hark
Mary and Al Harkrader
Carolyn Harmon
Kathryn Harvey
DiAnne and Terry Hatch
Alice J. Hayes
Natalie and Ben Heineman
Marcia and Samuel Hellman
Ruth and Robert Herzog
Hesed House, Inc.
Vivian Hickey
Christopher R. Hill
Mrs. Mary P. Hines
Alyce and Jay Hirschi
Liane and David Hodgman
Marshall and Doris Holleb
Mrs. Everett I. Hollis
Colleen Holmbeck
Susan and Nic Howell
Beverly and John Howie
Charlene and Charles Howland
Sister Julia Huiskamp
Carol and Vance Huntsinger
Denise and Peter Illing
Illinois Education Association
Ellie and Robert C. Ingersoll, Jr.
Susan J. Irion
Adrienne Osborne Ives
Naomi and Harry Jackson
Paula K. Jaudes, M.D.
Lawrence P. Jennings, M.D.
Judith Jepsen-Popel
Donna Joyce, L.C.S.W.
David and Susan Juday
Leslie Nathanson Juris
Donald E. Kalicok
Sokoni Karanja
Dorothy and John Kelcher
Doris Jean Keller
Mr. and Mrs. George Kelm
Barbara and Dennis Kessler
Kate and Robert Kestnbaum
Adina Kleiman
Paul Kleppner
Charles D. Knight
Patricia and Martin Koldyke
Frank Kopecky
Pat Kovar
Alice and Douglas Kraus
Margaret Krulee
John M. Lader
Elisabeth Lassers
Erin and Arthur LaVallie
Blair and William Lawlor
Betty Lazarus
Frances and Elliot Lehman
Lucy and Kenneth Lehman
Paul Lehman and Ronna Stamm
Gladys Leininger
Vivian M. Leith
Pat Leitzen-Fye
Kate and Edward Levi
Jill and John Levi
Gail and Len Lieberman
Carol and Robert Lifton
Gwendolyn and Loomis Lincoln
Carol and Paul Lingenfelter
Dorothy Liverpool
Georgia Lloyd
Mrs. Glen A. Lloyd
Hollis Logan
Jean London
Janet and Herbert Lotz
Donna Loundy
Teresa A. Lrouther
Brenda and Charles Lueke
Linda Lullo
Susan A. Lynch
Jessie Macdonald
Gary MacDougal and Charlene Gehn
Lauren Mader
Elizabeth and Robert Malott
Joan and Richard I. Mandel
Elizabeth Mapother
Victoria and Gregory Marchand
Susan Markko
Nancy L. Martin
Mary Crane League
Peg B. Matthias
Greg Mayer
Maureen K. McKeough
Dianne Meeks
Stephanie Mertens, A.S.C.
Paul T. Metzger
Carolyn and Ed Millard
Cynthia and Dennis Miller
Mark Miller and Anita Weinberg
Jane M. Moore
Janet and Richard Morrow
Net Mullen
Barbara Muller
Patricia M. Naughton
Gloria and Allen Needlman
Ann and Jerry Nerad
Mr. and Ms. Martin Nesbitt
Walter and Dawn Clark Netsch
Joan Newcomb
Alexandra and John Nichols
Peter Nierman and Beth Joksimovic
Irene I. Nordine
Jim Nowlan
Mary Joyce and William O'Connell
Margaret O'Flynn & Alexander Muster
William J. O'Shea
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Oostenbrug
Edward H. Oppenheimer
Janet and Ralph Otwell
Jack Packard
Kathryn and John Palmer
Dorothy and Joe Palombo
Mary and Jerome Park
Veronica and Patrick Patt
Lorraine and James Paulissen
Mrs. Gordon Perisho
Mark Podolner
JoAnn and Steven Potashnick
David J. Pritchard
Carole and Richard Pyle
Susan A. Ratzer
Diane Redleaf
Eleanor Revelle
John E. Rhine
Helen and Daniel Richards
Katharine S. Richards
Katie E. Richards
Marlene and Harold Richman
Marsha Richman and Richard Lanyon
Margery and Melvyn Rieff
Linda M. Rio
Thomas H. Robinson
Janice E. Rodgers
Cathleen and Richard Rogich
Theodore Rojahn
Adina and Robert Romain
Nancy Ronquillo
Elizabeth Sturgeon and Alex Rorke
Joyce and Donald Rumsfeld
Sarah Perkins and Thomas Russell
Betty Lu and Paul Saltzman
Tisha Sandberg
Cameron Satterthwaite
Helen F. Satterthwaite
Barbara and Jerry Savitt
Edna J. Schade
Kathy Schaeffer
Sandra and Dan Scheinfeld
E. Enaj and Philip Schlak
Louise and Jeffrey Schrank
Maryellen and Daniel Schwartz
Joan C. Scott
Barbara and Walter Scott
Sarah Sebert
Carole and Gordon Segal
Nancy and Ralph Segall
Elizabeth and Jeffrey Sharp
Elizabeth A. Sherwood
Victoria Shire
Gabrielle and Warren Shufeldt
Margery and Frank Shurman
Catherine and Howard Siegel
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene F. Sikorovsky
Mickie Silverstein
Gia Simmons
Adele and John Simmons
Carol Simon and Frank Lerman
Gene Simon
William S. Singer
Susan Agate and Michael Slutsky
Eunice H. Smith
Susanne and Harvey Smith
Julie Smith and Roger Stevens
Michael Sobel
Marilee Spector
Lois and Harrison Steans
Grace Mary and Herbert Stern
Dorie and Paul Sternberg
John Stevenson
Lyleen J. Stewart, R.N.
Sylvia and Joseph Stone
Loreen and Jay Stravers
Anne Strohm, Ph.D.
Joseph Sullivan
Carol and Bernard Susman
Marcia and Larry Swearingen
Susan and Daniel Swett
F. John Taylor
Arthur Tenhouse
Berneice Thomas
Brazilian and Alphonzo Thurman
Gail Tittle
Joan and Calvin Tobin
Amy Truelove and Zachary Schiffman
Ned R. Turner
Peter Tyor
Bonnie and Fidelis Umeh
Jodi and Jeffrey Upin
Randale Valenti
Jane R. VanBremen, Ph.D.
Rohitkumar Vasa, M.D.
B. Blair Vedder
Thomas E. Villiger
Alice W. von Neumann
Terri and Keith Voss
Laurel Walker
Joan and Alfred Ward
Sally Ward
Bernice S. Wax
Henry Webber and Christine Jacobs
Helen R. Weigle
Florence K. Weinberg
Claire and Alfred Weiner
Ruth and Sol Weiner
Morton Weir
Bernice Weissbourd
Charlotte Wenzel
Marilyn R. Werner
Deborah Wess
Julie West
Bonnie Wheeler
Charles White
Johanna F. White
David E. Whittaker
Edward J. Williams
Mary Jane and Jeremy Wilson
Iris Witkowsky
Audrey Witzman
Brenda Wolf and Fred Siegman
Sheryl Wolff
Robert I. Wolters
Earline P. Woods
Ruth and Quentin D. Young, M.D.
Youth Guidance
Joyce and Ray Zeiss
Arlene Zielke
Gloria Zieve
Constance Z. Zonka
Julie Zweigoron

Happy Birthday to Matthew Harris-Ridker

Gerald Adelmann
Rena and David Appel
Verna Cohen
Tilda M. Dulmian
Kathleen Dickhut and Paul Gobster
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hymen
Maxine H. Lange
Rita and Leon Love
Gloria and Allen Needlman
Emily and James Ridker
Betty and Leonard Ridker

In-Kind Contributions

Caffe Bacci
Consolidated Press
Nicor Gas
The Northern Trust
Senn-Delaney

If you are not listed and believe you should be or are listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and send a note of correction to:

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN
ATTN: DEVELOPMENT DEPT
208 S. LASALLE ST.
SUITE 1580
CHICAGO, IL 60604-1103

All corrections will appear in subsequent publications.

Thank you.

Voices for Illinois Children
Board of Directors

Kathleen Halloran, Chair
St. Charles

Michael Freeborn, Vice Chair
Barrington

Adela Coronado-Greeley, Secretary
Chicago

Lorraine Barba
Kenilworth

Jeanette Bitter
Quincy

Margaret Blackshere
Chicago

Eloy Burciaga
Chicago

Jeanne Crowley
Chicago

James Glasser
Chicago

Sokoni Karanja, Ph. D.
Chicago

George Kelm
Lincolnshire

Frank Kopecky
Springfield

Betty Lazarus
Urbana

Elliot Lehman
Skokie

Vivian Leith
Winnetka

Richard Mandel
Chicago

Dianne Meeks
Carbondale

James Mitchell, III
Frankfort

Martin Nesbitt
Chicago

John Rhine
Mount Carmel

Thomas H. Robinson
Moline

Nancy Ronquillo
Bloomington

Nancy Schulte
Chicago

Mickie Silverstein
Highland Park

Brazilian Thurman
DeKalb

Helen Weigle
Highland Park

Bernice Weissbourd
Chicago

Bonnie Wheeler
Carterville

Robert Wolters
Oak Brook

Voices for Illinois Children
Staff

Jerome Stermer
President

Julia Beckman
Director of Administration

Gaylord Gieseke
Senior Projects Director

Patricia Gonzalez
Fiscal Manager

Demece Harvey
Development Associate

Jenea Johnson
Administrative Assistant

Aniccia Miller
Program Associate

Ami Nagle
Project Director

Marjorie Newman
Communications Associate

Jim Perry
Director of Development

Alan Simpson
Director of Communications

Nancy Stevenson
Public Affairs Representative

Joan Vitale
Project Director

Interns
Andrea Havill
Stacey Spaeth

The Voices newsletter is designed by David Eisendrath and printed by Consolidated Press, Inc. of Elk Grove Village.

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN
208 S. LaSalle Street • Suite 1580
Chicago, Illinois 60604
tel (312) 456-0600
fax (312) 456-0088
e-mail info@voices4kids.org

Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.voices4kids.org

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, IL
Permit No. 2646

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN
VOICES

Inside Voices

- Network News
- Community Forums
- Kids Count Awards Dinner
- Advocacy Update, and more!

Volume 10, Number 2 SUMMER 1998

Edgar Joins Start Early Symposium

As people around the country face headlines about deadly incidents involving children, Governor Jim Edgar joined a group of policymakers, community leaders, early childhood educators and parents gathered in Chicago to explore the issues behind those headlines.

The *Start Early: Raising Kids Who Care* symposium was sponsored by Voices for Illinois Children and Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families to examine the relationship between children's early experiences and their emotional, social and cognitive development.

Governor Edgar praised the participants for focusing on the important development that occurs in children's early years. "That includes more than just education," he said. "It includes all aspects of insuring that our children have the best opportunity to be able to realize their fullest potential."

Photo: Jerry Daliege

Voices Vice Chair Eloy Burciaga, Governor Edgar & Voices President Jerry Stermer at the Start Early symposium.

"That's why it is so important that groups like Voices for Illinois Children exist – groups that will always speak up for the needs of children, who are truly in need. Those of us in government often need someone outside of government to kind of gently push us along. And sometimes maybe not so gently," said Edgar.

More than 300 people attended the symposium to explore questions about the roots of violence among children and to discuss ways that parents and others can help children grow up peaceful, capable, competent and caring.

Family therapist and author Robin Karr-Morse began her keynote address by considering recent high-profile violent incidents involving children. "How can kids plan and

(See START EARLY on page 5)

Success for Kids in Springfield – KidCare and Other Victories

The conclusion of the most recent session of the Illinois legislature brought significant victories for children, largely because of the enormous efforts of child advocates and citizens around the state. By far the most important of these victories is the establishment of the new state child health insurance program – KidCare.

As a member of the Governor's Task Force on Children's Health Insurance, Voices for Illinois Children was a leader of the broad network of advocates that worked tirelessly to convince legislators to bring health care coverage to the many uninsured children in Illinois – all of whom are children of working families. This effort was supported and promoted by several key state legislators, including Rep. Bill Brady (R-Bloomington), Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago), Rep. Mary Flowers (D-Chicago), Rep. Carolyn Krause (R-Mt. Prospect), Sen. Steven Rauschenberger (R-Elgin), Rep. Carol Ronen (D-Chicago), Sen. Margaret Smith (D-Chicago), Sen. Dave Syverson (R-Rockford) and Sen. Donne E. Trotter (D-Chicago).

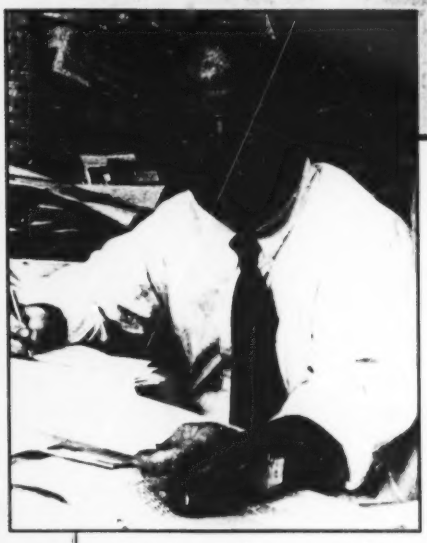
As a result of these efforts, the new KidCare program will enable more than 200,000 Illinois children to access health insurance. The legislature has set aside $116 million in state and federal funds for the program, which will provide comprehensive, affordable and accessible health insurance to children of families with income below 185% of poverty ($25,253 for a family of three).

KidCare contains several key components, including:

- Coverage of a broad range of prevention, intervention, emergency and acute care services for children.
- Cost-sharing: Families with income under 150% of poverty will pay a co-payment of $2 per visit (under a per-family annual cap of $100) and no premiums. Families with income between 150% and 185% of poverty will pay a monthly premium of $15 for one child, $25 for two children or $30 for three or more children, and a co-payment of $5 per visit (under a per-family annual cap of $100.) There are no co-payments for preventive services in the KidCare program.
- Retention of health care coverage for an entire year, regardless of how a parent's income or employment status changes.
- Subsidies to help offset the cost of premiums for families with income under 185% of poverty who are already providing their children with health insurance through an employer or private insurance company.

(See ADVOCACY UPDATE on page 5)

ED 027075



Finishing the Job

A Column from Voices' President Jerome Stermer

The closing weeks of the legislative session brought a number of significant victories for children, but none of them is more important than the dramatic expansion of the state health insurance program for children, now known as KidCare.

The program is a major step forward, in which Illinois recognizes the importance of raising healthy children and makes a commitment to help children of low-income families access health care coverage. KidCare will bring substantial health and financial benefits to low-income families, by funding health care coverage for uninsured children and providing subsidies for low-income families that have already found insurance for their children.

"Only by joining together will we get the word out..."

A broad network of advocates worked overtime to make sure the KidCare program is comprehensive, affordable and accessible. In turn, key legislators and political leaders played a vital role in guiding the program through the legislature.

All these efforts are commendable, and it would be understandable if everyone involved wanted to relax and enjoy the summer.

That's why it's essential that we recognize our job isn't finished.

As advocates for children, we often juggle a variety of projects and issues, from health insurance and child care to education, juvenile justice and economic security. The rapid pace of these challenges sometimes makes it hard to focus on anything but the immediate problem, but it is essential that we keep thinking about the larger picture.

As we work to provide a better future for children – and particularly in our effort to ensure that children of low-income families are not forgotten in the welfare reform process – we must continue to see that each step we advocate is part of a network.

Health care, child care and education do not function in isolation. They are interconnected parts of a web, and they need each other – and many other factors – to succeed.

Education suffers if students are frequently sick because their families can't access preventive health care. Children who don't receive quality child care may begin elementary school far less prepared to learn. The best education, child care and health care services will be inadequate if we don't respond to the related needs of low-income families, such as the challenges of getting to and from child care on public transportation.

That's why everyone concerned with the health and well-being of children needs to remember that passage of KidCare, while extremely important, is only one step toward our real goal of improving the lives of children in our state.

The next big step is outreach – communicating with working poor families around the state and letting them know how this new program will enable their children to access comprehensive and affordable health care.

The KidCare legislation includes provisions for outreach efforts, but the Department of Public Aid alone will not be able to contact all the families that desperately need to learn about this new child health insurance program.

The state will need help from advocates and organizations throughout Illinois that have direct contacts with families of uninsured children. Only by joining together will we get the word out about how children can enroll in KidCare and get the health care coverage they need.

KidCare has the potential to bring health insurance to more than 200,000 children in Illinois, but if we don't develop a strong outreach program quickly, far too few families will ever learn about it. And opponents of the program will argue that it was unnecessary, and will be far stronger when they call for reduced funding in the future.

That's why there are two things to say to the legislators and advocates who worked so hard on behalf of this landmark child health insurance legislation – and many of you contributed in enormous ways.

First, thank you for all your efforts.

Second, we're not done yet. Let's finish the job.

Jerry Stermer

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

eaders of local, state and national efforts to promote literacy and early learning were honored at Voices for Illinois Children's annual Kids Count Awards Dinner on Tuesday, June 2, 1998.

Each year, Voices uses the Kids Count Awards to recognize individuals and organizations that are working to build better futures for children and families. This year, the awards focused on the vital role that literacy and early learning have in the lives of children. 1998 Kids Count Award Winners included former First Lady Barbara Bush, early learning advocate Irving B. Harris, WGN-TV and Reading is Fundamental–Chicago.

In addition, the Community Advocacy Network (CAN) of Bloomington was the first recipient of the Helen R. Weigle Award for Innovation in Children's Programming – a new award recognizing an organization serving Illinois children and demonstrating significant innovation in addressing the needs of children. The award is named after Helen to honor her life-long campaign for children's rights as an educator, volunteer leader, and advocate.

Photo: Steven Becker

Voices Board Chair Kathy Halloran with Dinner Chair Thomas L. Fisher, President, Chairman & CEO of NICOR Gas.

"One of the reasons Voices for Illinois Children has been successful in rallying more and more people of our state in support of children is that we focus on issues that are most essential to their overall well-being," said Voices Board Chair Kathy Halloran. "Literacy and early learning have always been among those issues, which is why this year's awards concentrated on programs and individuals that promote literacy and encourage early learning and development. Our *Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* message is embodied in the tireless efforts of these Kids Count Award winners."

The Dinner Chairman was Thomas L. Fisher, president, chairman and CEO of NICOR Gas, and the event co-chairs were children's book author Jo Minow and Voices Board member Lorraine Barba. Fisher reported that the dinner and silent auction raised more than $170,000 for Voices.

Photo: Steven Becker

Left to right: Brenda Melcher, Unit 5 School; Karen Daudelin, United Way; Pete Borowski, CAN; Jerry Stermer, Voices president; Nancy Ronquillo, Voices and CAN board member; Gayle Keeran, OSF Heathcare; Jerry Weber, Heartland Community College and Helen Weigle, Voices board member.

Making New Friends, Cherishing the Old Ones

After years of service to children and families, two leaders of the Voices for Illinois Children Board of Directors are stepping down. Since Voices was founded more than eleven years ago, Jeannette Bitter and Elliot Lehman have dedicated considerable time and effort in support of our mission.

Jeannette Bitter, Kathy Halloran (chair), Elliot Lehman and Voices' President Jerry Stermer.

Jeannette Bitter is one of Voices' founding Board members and served as the first Board chair, as well as the chair of several committees. Elliot Lehman is also a founding Board member, and has always prompted Voices' staff and fellow Board members to remember the big picture.

We salute them for their friendship and devotion to children's issues, and look forward to their continued participation and support.

With the departure of Lehman and Bitter, Voices also welcomes three new Board members – Lynn Prothro House, Betsy Lehman and Bowen Tucker.

Lynn Prothro House (pictured left) shows her devotion to children's issues not only as a full-time mother, but also as president of the Cheerful Home Child Care Association's Board of Directors and chairman of the Finance Committee for the Blessing Hospital Board of Trustees, both in Quincy. For eight years, House was a vice president in the Commercial Banking Division for Swiss Bank. Her love for children is sure to benefit Voices and its partners.

As a staff attorney for the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, Betsy Lehman (pictured right) represents indigent clients in numerous areas of civil law, including employment, housing and social security. Lehman has also worked with Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, Northwestern Legal Clinic and the Cook County State's Attorney's office. Her experience and her time volunteering with the Chicago Legal Aid to Incarcerated Mothers program, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Peer Writing Tutors will be a great asset in her work with Voices.

Bowen Tucker (pictured left) is associate general counsel for FMC Corporation and manages FMC's Litigation Department. His previous experience includes several years with the litigation section of Hinckley Allen Law Firm in Providence, R.I. and the law department of Caterpillar, Inc. in Peoria. He has been chairman of the Juvenile Law Committee of the Chicago Bar Association, chairman of the Legal Process Task Force of the Chicago Residential Schools Study Committee, a member of the Illinois Commission on Children, and a member of the Citizens' Committee on the Juvenile Court of Cook County. Tucker's background will be a great help for Voices as we work to improve conditions for Illinois children.

Strengthening Families – Strengthening Communities

For the past four years, Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) has been working with parents in several Chicago neighborhoods to improve conditions and resources in their community. In partnership with local community organizations, such as West Town Leadership Project and Logan Square Neighborhood Association, COFI offers training and support to parents who are interested in getting involved.

"The bottom line is that parents want their children to grow up healthy and capable of living productive lives," said COFI Executive Director Ellen Schumer. "They have a good idea of what would help them achieve their goals for themselves and their families, and we bring them together to build on common interests and concerns. Together they find strength and develop strategies to improve conditions in their schools and neighborhoods."

Ellen Schumer, co-founder and executive director of Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI).

To help parents become active, COFI offers three phases of training. During phase one, parents set personal, family and community goals, and form action teams to support their work toward those goals. In phase two, parents develop a community survey and interview 300-500 families, teachers, store-owners and youth to learn more about what people like or dislike about the community. The action team then identifies resources and partners to respond to these needs and interests. In phase three, parents are trained as "peer trainers" so they can teach new groups of parents to set personal, family and community goals.

To date, over 700 parents have been trained in the COFI approach. Many of these parent action teams have established new programs and services within their local schools, including GED, English as a Second Language, computer classes, child care and Alcoholics Anonymous. This year, 28 COFI-trained parents were elected to their Local School Councils.

Over the next several years, COFI will expand to work with other community organizations and groups that want to increase the participation and leadership of parents in community improvement efforts. Also, COFI has established a Parents Policy Group – comprised of leaders from all of the local action teams – to identify and work on policy issues that impact families across the city. COFI is particularly interested in developing long-term financial support for the centers founded by parents to provide vital services for children and families in their neighborhood.

"Once parents find they have influence and can make things happen, there is no stopping them," said Schumer. "Our job is to augment their skills and connect them to each other, local resources and leadership opportunities where they can have an impact on services and policies affecting children and families." ◆

COFI HAS SCHEDULED A ONE DAY ORIENTATION ON JULY 30, 1998 AT RAMADA INN LAKE SHORE (4900 SOUTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE) FROM 9A.M. TO 3P.M. FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT ELLEN SCHUMER AT 773-477-3847.

The Illinois Family Partnership Network: Leaders in Action will host a Working Summit from September 17 to September 19 at the Signature Inn in Springfield, Illinois. The Illinois Family Partnership Network (formerly the Parent Leadership Committee) is a statewide network of parents, organizations and state agencies committed to improving outcomes for children through family involvement. The Network recognizes that family voices are critical in designing effective programs and policies for children. ***Call Voices at 312-456-0600 to be placed on the mailing list.***

Community Forums Help Focus Elections on Children's Issues

The upcoming election season is an ideal time for neighbors to come together and share ideas about the issues that matter most in their community.

This year, Voices is helping individuals and local organizations sponsor *Start Early* Community Forums, which are designed to help neighbors talk with neighbors – and with candidates – about ways we can help all children grow up well-educated, safe, well-nurtured and healthy.

"The *Start Early* Community Forums will bring community members together in homes and meeting halls around the state, often with candidates for local, state and federal offices," said Voices President Jerry Stermer. "Gatherings like this enable people to really communicate about solutions to the challenges confronting our children, families and neighborhoods."

Voices for Illinois Children is preparing a *Start Early* Community Forum Guide to help individuals and community groups concentrate their discussions on the child and family issues that are most important in their areas – from early childhood development and education to health care and economic security.

Start Early Community Forums will also help increase the number of voices in each community speaking out on behalf of children, and will be an important step toward improving the future for the children of our state.

Several groups are moving forward with plans for *Start Early* Community Forums, which generally will be held in September and October, when voter interest in the upcoming elections is highest. "We wanted to get started early," said Jane Thomas, who is organizing a community forum on September 28 at William Rainey Harper College in Palatine. "It will help us get on the schedules of more candidates, and enable us to get the word out to people around the community." ◆

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE START EARLY COMMUNITY FORUMS AND TIPS ON HOW TO PLAN A FORUM IN YOUR AREA, CALL KIM FITZGERALD OR MARJORIE NEWMAN AT 312-456-0600.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

START EARLY (continued from front page)

then systematically kill their classmates? How in the course of a half dozen or even a dozen years can a baby metamorphasize into a violent killer, and why?" she asked.

"In the media, these stories are told backwards," continued Karr-Morse, co-author of *Ghosts from the Nursery: Tracing the Roots of Violence*. "We first hear about the crime, and then we hear bits and pieces of earlier chapters and previous behavior. What is typically missing in these stories is the first chapter – the chapter encompassing gestation, birth and toddlerhood – the time when the foundation of how we think and how we relate to other people is formed."

She went on to explore how experiences of the first few years set the foundation for how human beings interact and relate to others and to examine some of the factors that can foster violent behavior.

The symposium audience joined in a panel discussion exploring how programs and policies in Illinois address the needs of very young children and their families. Panelists included Harriet Meyer of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, State Senator Steven Rauschenberger (R-Elgin), State Representative Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago), Dr. Stephen Saunders of the Illinois Office of Family Health, and psychology professor Janellen Huttenlocher of the University of Chicago.

One highlight of the symposium was the presentation of the *Start Early* video, which is designed to connect with young, at-risk parents and share the campaign's important messages about how they can help their babies grow and learn from day one. (See pages 6-7)

The *Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* campaign is a multi-year public awareness program led by Voices for Illinois Children and made possible through grants and assistance from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, the Harris Foundation, The Ounce of Prevention Fund, Family Focus, Popely & Company, Inc. and R.J. Dale Advertising and Public Relations.

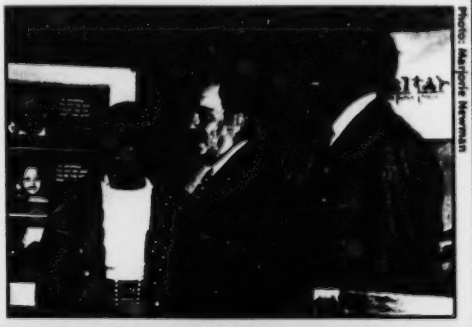


Photo: Marjorie Newman

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley with Edye Hughes (left) and Robert Dale (right) of R.J. Dale Advertising and Public Relations at the May 5th *Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* news conference which led to extensive media coverage of the new campaign, including reports by the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Defender, WMAQ-TV (NBC), CLTV and several radio stations.

Starting Early in Your Community

Now that the Chicago stage of the *Start Early* campaign has begun, Voices for Illinois Children is preparing to expand the campaign, bringing the essential *Start Early* messages to at-risk parents in communities around the state.

An integral part of this expansion is the development of community partners to serve as the local leadership groups for *Start Early*. At-risk parents need these local networks to teach them about services that are available in the community and help them cope with the challenges of parenting.

That's why our first step in bringing *Start Early* to your community is creating a partnership with existing family support and community health organizations. Voices will work with you to help develop funding from local businesses and private organizations, and to establish a framework for providing *Start Early* training to the people who will work directly with the at-risk parents in your community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FORMING A START EARLY PARTNERSHIP IN YOUR COMMUNITY, CONTACT JOAN VITALE AT VOICES: 312-516-5555.

ADVOCACY UPDATE (continued from front page)

Key supporters of the Start Early Agenda (clockwise from top left): Rep. Bill Brady; Rep. Carol Ronen; Sen. Donne E. Trotter; Sen. Dave Syverson.

The passage of KidCare was essential because one in ten children in Illinois currently lacks health care coverage. Most of these children receive little or no preventive medical care and often get their medical care in the emergency room, where the cost to state taxpayers is significantly higher.

KidCare was just one part of the *Start Early* legislative agenda – a series of proposals designed to ensure that more Illinois children are healthy, nurtured and well educated. Thanks to the hard work, letters and phone calls of people from around the state, we were able to achieve several other important victories for children in this legislative session. Following is a summary of the session and the issues affecting children and families.

Early Education

In FY99, more than 20 million new dollars will be available for the Illinois State Board of Education's Early Childhood Block Grant, which helps children get ready to start school – $2.08 million targeted at programs serving children ages 0-3, and $17.96 million for programs serving 3-5 year olds. This 15% increase brings the Early Childhood Block Grant to a total of about $154 million in FY99.

Healthy Families Illinois

Building on last year's success, the 1998 *Start Early* legislative agenda recommended an increase of $2 million (for a total of $4 million) in funding for the Healthy Families Illinois network of home visiting programs. While the Governor asked for no increase in this line item, advocates from across the state were determined that more children should have the opportunity to access these valuable programs.

Two very successful advocacy days in May encouraged legislators to increase funding for the program, and follow-up letters and phone calls from advocates statewide helped secure an additional $1.5 million for Healthy Families Illinois.

Child Care

Legislators and advocates worked for needed changes in the structure of Illinois' new child care system, but were unable to get those changes approved – or get any increase in funding. Advocates are continuing to work with the Department of Human Services, exploring ways of making some of the changes administratively.

Cost of Living Increase

The General Assembly approved the Governor's recommended cost of living increase for health and human service providers. In FY98, providers will receive a 1.5% one-time cost of living increase. In FY99, providers will receive a 3% cost of living increase in reimbursement allocations.

Increase in the Personal Exemption

Legislators doubled the personal income tax exemption. For years, Voices has called for Illinois to raise the personal exemption and reduce the tax burden on low-income families. This increase will be phased in over three years (bringing the exemption to $2,000 per person).

A Look Inside the *Start Early* Video and Communication

Photos by Rich Foreman

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN

Contacts:
Alan Simpson
312-516-5551
simpson_alan@voices4kids.org

Marjorie Newman
312-516-5564
newman_marjorie@voices4kids.org

INNOVATIVE VIDEO CAMPAIGN HELPS AT-RISK PARENTS *START EARLY* WITH KIDS

June 5, 1998 – Voices for Illinois Children has created an innovative video and magazine for the new ***Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth*** campaign, which shows young, at-risk parents how to foster the healthy and full development of their babies.

"A growing number of children in Illinois are born into at-risk families – headed by single teenage mothers who have not completed high school. We need to make these parents aware of the enormous amount of brain development that occurs in a child's first years, and how nurturing and stimulation are essential during this crucial stage," said ***Start Early*** Project Director Joan Vitale. "Teen parents are an extremely tough audience to reach, so we designed this campaign specifically for them."

The ***Start Early*** campaign uses several new strategies to target young, at-risk parents. The centerpiece of the campaign is a video with an "MTV" style, featuring five teen mothers discussing the challenges and rewards of caring for their babies. To further increase its appeal, the video also includes Malik Yusef – "the Wordsmyth" – performing a new poem about the responsibilities facing young parents.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Due to the increase in divorce, marital separation, alcohol and drug abuse, parental incarceration, AIDS and other factors, kinship care is on the rise across the country. While the word "kin" applies to any familial relationship, the great majority of kinship caregivers are grandparents, who are increasingly the permanent or long-term primary caregivers for many children. In Illinois, an estimated 70,000 children live in grandparent-headed households with no parent present, and approximately 150,000 children live in grandparent households with one parent present.

Grandparents face enormous challenges when placed in the role of primary caregiver. Many of these grandparents are raising second families while their physical, emotional and financial conditions are threatened by the onset of age. Furthermore, these grandparents are likely to be single and unemployed, and often cannot handle additional expenses for medical care, child care and clothing.

Unfortunately, many state policies and services can create additional barriers for kinship caregivers, because they define a family as a parent and a child. As a result, grandparents assuming responsibility for grandchildren may face many obstacles when trying to get appropriate services for the child. For example, in both public and private schools, parental consent is required for enrollment, field trips and excused absences. Without proof of guardianship or official standing from the court system, grandparents may find the education system unresponsive and uncooperative. Medical treatments, child care and religious instruction are other examples in which the grandparent will need some degree of caregiver authority.

Government and community agencies can create significant obstacles for grandparent caregivers. Child care subsidized by the state may have very specific guidelines regarding family composition and income, and a grandparent seeking child care may not qualify because he is not working. Means-tested programs will often disqualify middle-income grandparents unless the child is part of the welfare system.

These are only a few of the challenges facing grandparent caregivers. With kinship care on the rise, there is a pressing need for a new approach to these families, and for support systems that meet the needs of both the grandparent and the child.

Under the leadership of Illinois Department on Aging Director Maralee I. Lindley, a task force was developed, and with the assistance of BlueCross-BlueShield of Illinois, a statewide symposium was held. The symposium brought grandparent caregivers together with child welfare advocates, law enforcement officials and specialists in the aging field to discuss ways to increase public education and awareness and promote supportive services.

Voices for Illinois Children supports the efforts of the Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to raise public awareness of this issue and effectively address the challenges of kinship care. ◆

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON:

- *SUPPORT GROUPS AND OTHER RESOURCES* – CALL THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT ON AGING'S SENIOR HELPLINE AT 800-252-8966.
- *THE TASK FORCE* – CONTACT THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT ON AGING, 421 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE, #100, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701-1789 OR CALL 217-785-2870.

Business Cares for Kids

AN UPDATE

Voices for Illinois Children established the Business Cares For Kids program as a forum for sharing information about the steps business leaders are taking to improve conditions for children and families in Illinois.

Since its creation last year, Business Cares for Kids has explored several key ways that Illinois companies are making a difference for kids, including taking a strategic approach to corporate philanthropy and community service; encouraging employee volunteerism on behalf of children; and being a leader on children's issues in the public policy arena.

For many businesses, the approach with the most direct impact on children and families involves policies that help their own employees balance work and family needs. One example of these work/family policies is child care.

As the accompanying profile on the Northern Trust illustrates, providing child care services is an excellent way for a company to support its employees. It is also a key step in nurturing the full growth and development of our children – who are tomorrow's work force and a key to our ability to compete in the global marketplace.

The profile reveals some of the challenges that face any business trying to establish child care for its employees, and explores ways that companies can meet those challenges.

While there is no perfect model for employer-sponsored child care, businesses can gain a great deal by reviewing the strategies of other companies and learning from their experiences.

Business Cares for Kids is helping to foster that review by bringing leaders of visionary companies together through the Corporate Roundtable – a quarterly opportunity for businesses to discuss ways corporate leadership can help solve the problems facing children in our state. ◆

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BUSINESS CARES FOR KIDS, CONTACT JIM PERRY OR ALAN SIMPSON AT: 312-456-0600.

Business Cares for Kids

PROFILE

Northern Trust Corporation

Since 1889, Chicago-based Northern Trust Corporation has been committed to meeting the needs of its workforce and the communities it serves. In Chicago, one of the most prominent examples of this commitment is the child care center Northern built for employees in 1990.

Child care was part of the discussion as soon as Northern began planning a new office building in 1988. "We had been hearing from a lot of female employees about their difficulties finding child care," said Jeanne Ulatowski, vice president and manager of Work/Life Services. "It was the perfect time to explore the feasibility of a child care center."

Jeanne Ulatowski of the Northern Trust Corporation with children at the company's Chicago child care center

Creating the center involved many challenges, including understanding city and state licensing requirements, but one advantage for Northern was that planning a new building enabled them to solve potential problems in advance.

For example, parents often have problems getting children to and from child care, so Northern included designated parking spaces for the child care center, and parents can use Northern's shuttle buses to and from the train stations and their offices in the Loop.

Quality of care was important as well. "We knew we wanted more than a babysitting program," said Ulatowski. "We designed an early childhood education program, and accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children was a priority from the beginning."

To make the program accessible to as many employees as possible, Northern established a scholarship program. More than one dozen employees with adjusted gross family income of $40,000 or less can get between 45 and 60 percent of the program cost paid by Northern.

As a result of this detailed planning, the center was fully enrolled in just two years, and there is now a waiting list of families who want to join.

"The center is important to our employees," said Ulatowski. "It says Northern recognizes their needs, and even those who don't use it feel good about being part of an organization that makes this kind of commitment."

The child care center is also one of the reasons Northern has been recognized for seven consecutive years by *Working Mother* as one of the country's top 100 companies for programs and benefits which support the balancing of work and personal responsibilities.

Ulatowski cautions that on-site child care may not work for all companies. "If your employees are mostly men, they may not use the service because moms are typically the ones taking the kids to and from child care," she said. "You need to be realistic about your demographics. Maybe you don't need a center of your own, and perhaps you can provide child care by joining with other companies."

As more companies try to help employees balance work and family responsibilities, child care will continue to be a key issue. Through its leadership role on child care, Northern Trust Corporation demonstrates how Business Cares for Kids. ◆

Illinois Advocates Committed to Helping Children

Across Illinois, people are working hard to make a difference in the lives of children. Whether it's creating new programs or expanding existing efforts, every helping hand brings new opportunities to children, families and their communities. Here are just a few of the people raising their voices for Illinois children.

CHAMPAIGN

Members of the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union recently initiated a new group called the **Juvenile Justice Study Group**. Stan Levy, chair of the study group, meets monthly with about 15 social service agencies in Champaign County to discuss concerns regarding the Juvenile Detention Center. The group is currently working to find ways to improve the physical condition of the detention facility, strengthen its programs, and establish counseling services for those leaving the facility.

CHICAGO

Carlos Delgado has volunteered for six years as a recruiter for Lincoln's Challenge Program. He recruits students who have dropped out or been expelled from school to participate in a five month residential program. The program involves counseling, community service projects and GED courses.

Walt Disney Magnet School teacher **Marcia Regan's** dedication to quality education was recently recognized when she became the first teacher in Chicago to receive National Board Certification. To gain that status, Regan was involved in a year-long process that included performance-based assessments, portfolios of student work, and analysis and videotapes of her teaching techniques.

The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc. is opening an office in Chicago and is expanding their existing 13 Illinois chapters. Illinois State Director **Carol Grant Hall** says she is excited about the opportunity to help stabilize Illinois children owed child support. ACES provides education on legal rights, advocates for better collection practices and results, and works to increase awareness of the effects on children of non-payment of support.

EAST ST. LOUIS

The groundbreaking for the **Jackie Joyner-Kersee Youth Center Foundation** building is scheduled to take place this summer. The program, which began in 1989, is designed to motivate at-risk youth and provide a safe haven for the kids living in the community. The new facility will expand the cultural, educational and recreational activities available for children and families in the East St. Louis area, and will also house a child care facility.

QUINCY

After the recent move to a new building, **Walter Hammond Day Care, Inc.** is now preparing to apply for accreditation. Executive Director **Lisa Sams** says moving the center (once known as the Frederick Ball Day Care Center) out of the Frederick Ball Housing Complex was the first step towards accreditation. The new facility is larger, has new equipment and several classrooms. Sams says moving across the street has allowed her staff to continue working with the same students and meeting the needs of the community.

The West Central Child Care Connection is working to improve the quality of child care services through education and training. Executive Director **Karen Points** is excited about the quality enhancement grant West Central Child Care Connection recently received. The grant has permitted the resource and referral agency to purchase six sets of interactive training videos for their Quincy office and outreach sites. The training videos include topics on positive discipline, and child growth and development.

West Central Child Care Connection will also award a $200 stipend to family child care providers who complete 15 in-service hours (beyond classes required by the state.) West Central Child Care Connection works with 500 licensed child care providers in nine Illinois counties.

ROCKFORD

Motivating Individuals for Learning and Living (MILL) has doubled the size of its day treatment program to 24 students. **Amy Perri**, director of development for MILL, says the newly expanded facility has created additional space for classrooms, athletic and recreational events, and a student library. The day treatment program offers therapy sessions and an educational curriculum approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. For twenty years, MILL has provided an array of services for youth who perform below grade level and who are from economically disadvantaged families.

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN

Ami Nagle, project director at Voices, was presented with an award from the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in recognition of her work on the Governor's Task Force on Children's Health Insurance.

Voices received $6,000 from a Fashion Show and Luncheon sponsored by the **Greater Federation of Women's Clubs/ Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs.** GFWC held the April fundraiser in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Parents Anonymous and Prevent Child Abuse Illinois were among the other groups that benefited from the event.

Voices' recent publication, *Information is Power!*, won a Silver Trumpet award from the Publicity Club of Chicago. The annual awards recognize excellence in public relations, unique publications or videos.

If you know a person or a group that should be recognized for great advocacy efforts, call Marjorie Newman at 312-516-5564.

Voices for Illinois Children
Network News
208 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1580
Chicago, IL 60604

E-Mail: info@voices4kids.org

Dads Are Needed Too

"Did you have a good time with your dad?"

"Well, not really. We went to grandma's. I talked to her and played with my cousins and the kids down the street. I had fun with them. But Dad worked on the car and watched the game. After that we went to the show and then he brought me back home. I really didn't get a chance to talk to him... I needed more time."

Quality time. What is it? Is it important? When do you give it? *Real Fathers Real Men*, a not-for-profit organization in Chicago, seeks to answer these questions.

"*Quality Time* sessions let men know that they are important in the lives of their children right from birth," says Lacy Gray, founder of *Real Fathers Real Men*. "Fathers have just as much involvement in the emotional and social growth of their children as mothers do."

Real Fathers Real Men conducts four-week sessions primarily for fathers who are absent from the home due to divorce or separation, although step-fathers and fathers that have remarried are welcome to participate.

"We focus on fathers that are divorced or not in relationships with the mother of their child because these men have a tendency to group the child with the mother," says Gray. "If the father prefers limited contact with the mother, the visits with the child may be limited as well."

Fathers participating in the *Quality Time* sessions must sign a contract committing themselves to the four-week workshop, and to bringing their child or children along. According to Gray, having the father and child together brings out feelings and issues that kids and dads don't normally discuss.

"Quality time means different things to different people. You can ask ten people and get nine different answers," said Danny Bishop, a father who participated in the program. "To me it's communicating and bonding. I believe playing baseball with your son is not communicating with your son. That satisfies a physical interest but not the emotional one. Communication is a key."

One goal of the program is to ensure that the father and child really know each other. "We were tested on what I call the little things," said Bishop. "Things like 'What's your daughter's favorite color?', 'Who is her best friend?', and 'What is your daughter's favorite sport?' I soon realized that those little things were actually very big issues and we actually had a lot in common." ◆

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REAL FATHERS REAL MEN CALL LACY GRAY AT 312-791-9908.

Advocacy Resources: Know Your Facts

Voices produces materials that can help us all become better advocates for young people. Here are a few of our available resources:

Closing the Gap:
Insuring Children in Illinois

This report details the state's new KidCare program, which will provide health insurance to thousands of uninsured children. The report includes information on services provided and cost per family based on size and income.

- *Complimentary.*

1998 National Kids Count Data Book

This book tracks the status of children in the United States on a national and state-by-state level, measuring the educational, social, economic and physical well-being of children.

- *Complimentary.*

Illinois Kids Count:
Learning Begins at Birth (1997-1998)

While focusing on recent brain research and the importance of early education for children, this report provides child well-being statistics for each of Illinois' 102 counties and outlines an agenda to improve the lives of children.

- *$12 for members; $15 for non-members.*

Illinois Data Reconnaissance and Improvement Project: Executive Summary

Funded by the Poverty & Race Research Action Council, this project studied the availability, accessibility and quality of data on programs for low-income and minority groups in Illinois, including health, education, income support and housing programs.

- *Complimentary.*

Information is Power! A Guide to Fear-Free Fact Finding

This award-winning technical assistance guide offers step-by-step instructions for locating data on children and families, as well as equations for calculating basic statistics.

- *Complimentary.*

Ten Things Every Child Needs

An 11-minute video summary of the one-hour show explaining the needs of infants and young children. This fascinating video, produced by WTTW/Channel 11 and supported by the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, shows 10 easy things parents can help in the development of their baby.

- *Call the McCormick Tribune Foundation at 1-888-683-2224.*

MANY VOICES PUBLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE. VISIT US AT WWW.VOICES4KIDS.ORG.

Be Ready to Vote for Kids

October 6, 1998 is the deadline to register to vote for this year's election. Registration takes place at your local City Hall. Registrants need two (2) pieces of identification. Valid IDs include, but are not limited to, a driver's license, social security card, utility bill, library card, or student ID. One ID must include your name and current address – no post office box numbers or business addresses accepted.

Chicago residents can register at the Board of Election, located at 121 N. La Salle. Residents can also register during the Area Registration on October 3, 1998, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. at various locations throughout the city, including grocery stores, polling places and libraries. Other Illinois residents should contact their local board of election or County Clerk's office to find the date and locations for their Area Registration. ◆

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN IS A TAX-EXEMPT CORPORATION UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CODE SECTION 501(C)(3) AND IS NOT CLASSIFIED AS A PRIVATE FOUNDATION. CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOICES TAKE ON AN INFINITE VARIETY OF FORMS.

WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 1, 1998 THROUGH MAY 31, 1998.

Individuals, Groups & Associations

Janice and George Abizaid
Barbara and Jonathan Achenbaum
Martha S. Alexakos
Murray J. Alscher
Janet Anderson
Candace F. Austin
Cindy and James Bachner
Becky Bacidore
Jean Barbato
Linda Beckerman
Mary Beltran
Elizabeth H. Bennett
Charlene Bennington
Jeanette and James Bitter
Sue Blackman
Shaun and Andrew Block
Judith and Philip Block
Della Mae and Harold Bork
Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Borries
Charles A. Boyle
Nancy and James Brandt
Jill Brennan
Jennifer S. Brown
Mary Anne Brown
Bobbie and Jack Buffington
Willard Bunn III
Charles Burda
Judy Caplan
Joel Carp
Nancy G. Carroll
John W. Castle
Barbara Chasnoff
Chicago Area Combined Federal Campaign
Child Abuse Council
Myrna Christopherson
Ann Clayton
Laurie Cohen
Constance and Thomas Cole
Jane and John Colman
Jack Cramer-Heuerman
Corinne V. Crock
Christine and Michael Crouch
Christy and Peter Cushing
Danley Garage World
Abram and Abram Davis
Mary A. DeGroot
Mary Ann Diller
Kristin Lund Dobosh
Alice DuPraw
Orval and Clara Edwards
Linda Englund
Christine and William Erenberg
Representative Judy Erwin
Jessica T. Feldman
Helene and Thomas Fields
Jean F. Fisher
Joseph F. Fisher
Mrs. J. Cushing Fitzgerald
Robert Fitzgerald
Lula M. Ford
Susan Frankel Perlin
Michael and Nancie Freeborn
Janet W. Freund
Maya and David Friedler
Robyn Gabel
Ronald H. Galowich
GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs
Ruth and Harold Goldman
Susan Grossman
Patricia and William Hagenah
Bob Haisman
Diane and Jeff Hamilton
Sandra Hanson
Sandy and Jim Hartnett
Kathryn Harvey
Camille Hatzenbuehler
Eleanor and Patrick Head
Mary P. Hines
Will Horton
Philip W. Hummer
Pam Hutul
Illinois Education Association
Illinois Public Health Association, Inc.
Liz and Cliff Ireland
Adrienne Osborne Ives
Anne Jacobson
Richard Jaffee
Paula K. Jaudes, M.D.
Barbara Kariotis Javaras
Robert Jeffers and Sarah Byron
Linnea and Roger Johnson
Doris Jones
Donna Joyce, L.C.S.W.
David and Susan Juday
Karen Kaczanowski
Sherry Kalinowski
Kane County Child Advocacy Center
Morris A. Kaplan
Irene Kasambira
Leslie Kase
Dennis J. and Constance Keller
Ann Kirwan
Amy and Mark Knepper
Patricia and Martin Koldyke
Alice W. Kraus
James Kuhn
Representative Louis I. Lang
Mary Lee Leahy
Jean LeBlond
Michael Leppen
Louella and Mark Levey
Carole R. Levine
Renee Logan
Maurice Lyon
Babs W. Maltenfort
March of Dimes, Greater Illinois Chapter
Victoria and Gregory Marchand
Carmen E. Martin
Mary Crane Center
Beatrice C. Mayer
Heidi and Greg Mayer
Arnold L. Mayster
James and Carolyn McClure, Jr.
Gretchen McDowell
Representative Jack McGuire
Dianne Meeks
Elsie Mills
Josephine B. and Newton Minow
Robert Mittendorf
Jane M. Moore
Jennifer Moran
Naomi M. Morris, M.D.
Barbara Muller
Paulette Mulligan
Alexander & Margaret Muster, M.D.
National Association of Child Advocates
Kathy Nau
Joan O'Malley
Margaret and Jim Otis
Senator Kathleen K. Parker
Peggy Patten
Irma Ellis Patterson
Miriam H. Perisho
James E. Perry and Joseph R. Sullivan
Shari Peterson
Nancy L. Pinzke
Deborah and Richard Popely
Joanne and Bret Popper
Constance E. Porteous
Poverty & Race Research Action Council
Progressive Community Church
Resurrection High School
Sue Ridgway
Thomas H. Robinson
Rockford United Labor
Karen M. Ross
Ann Rothschild
Dr. and Mrs. Joel Sammet
Kathy Schaeffer
Donna P. Schiller
Thersa B. Neu Schmiedeskamp
Nancy Schulte
Joy Segal, Ph.D.
Mary Selinski
Bonnie Shinn
Sandra A. Smith
Jackie Smizer
Michael Sobel
Elizabeth G. Sonnenschein
Darcie Spar
Mr. and Mrs. William Spence
Bernadine Stake
Shirley Stillinger
Grace Sturgis and Anne Rossiter
Lenard Swanson
Marina and Arnold Tatar
The Illinois Facilities Fund
Jane Ann Thomas
Paula Tillman
Martin Tracy
Bowen H. Tucker
Sharon Voliva
Helen R. Weigle
Ruth and Sol Weiner
Lauren A. Wellen
West Central Child Care Connections, Inc.
Cheryl White
Williamson County Child Advocacy Center
June S. Wilson, M.D.
Lisa Wilson
Susan and Robert Wislow
Ann and Arnold Wolff
Irene Wood
Ruth D. Woods
Work/Family Directions, Inc.
Ann Yoshida
Jean and Michael Yount
Mr. and Mrs. James Zacharias

In memory of Phillip Strauss
Oakton Community College

In memory of Ruth Kennedy
DuPage County Democratic Central Committee

In honor of Margot Meyer (on Mother's Day)
Nancy & Marvin Glasser

Businesses, Foundations and Corporations

Alberto-Culver Company
Alphagraphics
Amoco Corporation
Andersen Consulting
Arthur Andersen
AT&T
Bank One, Illinois, NA
Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated
Chicago Title and Trust Company
CNA Financial Corporation
ComEd
Concord Investment Company
Crain Communications Inc.
Arie and Ida Crown Memorial
GATX Corporation
Harpo Studios
Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund
Household International, Inc.
Patricia Hurley & Associates, Inc.
Jasculca-Terman Associates
Mayer, Brown and Platt
McDonald's Corporation
Molex, Inc.
Nicor Gas
Pittway Corporation Charitable
Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation
Sahara Enterprises
Sara Lee Corporation
Sidley & Austin
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
The Chicago Community Trust
The Harris Foundation
The Northern Trust
United Airlines
Weltman Katz Mikell & Nechtow, Ltd.
WGN-TV
William Blair & Company

In-Kind Contributions

American Airlines
Artistic Communications Center
Border's Books and Music
Caribou Coffee
Carson, Inc.
Chicago Amateur Athlete
Chicago Area Runners Association
Chicago Children's Choir
Chicago Children's Museum
Chicago Parent
Chicago Special Events Management
Childers Communications
Columbia Yacht Club
Deborah Popely & Company, Inc.
Kids II, Inc.
Learning Curve Toys
Little Miss Muffin
Josephine B. Minow
NAYA Water
North American Bear Company, Inc.
Penquin USA
Radio Flyer, Inc.
Reily Graphic Services, Inc.
R. J. Dale
Starbucks Coffee
WGN-TV
WCKG-FM
WTMX-FM

If you are not listed and believe you should be or are listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and send a note of correction to:

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN
ATTN: DEVELOPMENT DEPT
208 S. LASALLE ST.
SUITE 1580
CHICAGO, IL 60604-1103

All corrections will appear in subsequent publications.

Thank you.

Voices for Illinois Children
Board of Directors

Kathleen Halloran, Chair
St. Charles

Eloy Burciaga, Vice Chair
Chicago

Michael Freeborn, Vice Chair
Barrington

Jeanne Crowley, Secretary
Chicago

Lorraine Barba
Kenilworth

Margaret Blackshere
Chicago

James Glasser
Chicago

Adela Coronado-Greenley
Chicago

Lynn Prothro House
Payson

Sokoni Karanja, Ph. D.
Chicago

George Kelm
Lincolnshire

Frank Kopecky
Springfield

Betsy Lehman
Chicago

Vivian Leith
Winnetka

Richard Mandel
Chicago

Dianne Meeks
Carbondale

James Mitchell, III
Frankfort

Martin Nesbitt
Chicago

John Rhine
Mount Carmel

Thomas H. Robinson
Moline

Nancy Ronquillo
Bloomington

Nancy Schulte
Chicago

Mickie Silverstein
Highland Park

Brazilian Thurman
DeKalb

Bowen Tucker
Arlington Heights

Helen Weigle
Highland Park

Bernice Weissbourd
Chicago

Bonnie Wheeler
Carterville

Robert Wolters
Oak Brook

Voices for Illinois Children
Staff

Jerome Stermer
President

Julia Beckman
Director of Administration

Kim Fitzgerald
Community Advocacy Associate

Gaylord Gieseke
Senior Projects Director

Patricia Gonzalez
Fiscal Manager

Demece Harvey
Development Associate

Jenea Johnson
Administrative Assistant

Aniccia Miller
Program Associate

Ami Nagle
Project Director

Marjorie Newman
Communications Associate

Jim Perry
Director of Development

Alan Simpson
Director of Communications

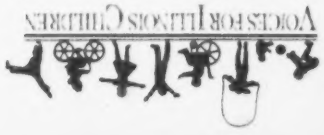
Nancy Stevenson
Public Affairs Representative

Joan Vitale
Project Director

Interns
Lisa Bradford
Andrea Havill
Lisa Petrilli
Julie Sampson
Stacey Spaeth

The Voices newsletter is designed by David Eisendrath

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN
208 S. LaSalle Street • Suite 1580
Chicago, Illinois 60604
tel (312) 456-0600
fax (312) 456-0088
e-mail: info@voices4kids.org
Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.voices4kids.org



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, IL
Permit No. 2646

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN

VOICES

Inside Voices

- Teen R.E.A.C.H
- Business Cares for Kids
- Children's Court Centennial
- Network News and More

Volume 10 Number 3 Fall 1998

Gubernatorial Candidates' Views on Children

We recently sent the two major candidates for Governor – Secretary of State George Ryan and Representative Glenn Poshard – a list of questions about issues involving children and families.

Those questions and the responses each candidate provided are printed here to give our readers an opportunity to assess the candidates before the general election on Tuesday, November 3.

Voices for Illinois Children is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that does not endorse any specific candidate or party for public office.

CHILDREN AS A PRIORITY

As governor, how will your administration respond to, coordinate and promote the needs of children as a high priority?

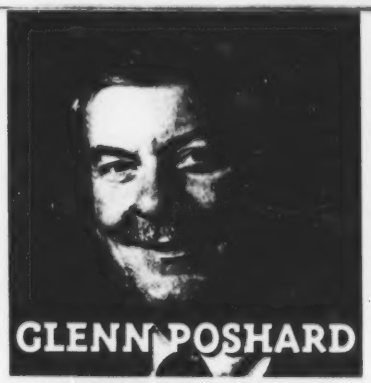
I am the father of six and the grandfather of 13. The children of Illinois are, and always will be, my highest priority. I have released several detailed position papers which outline my proposals and plans for dealing with Illinois' pressing problems. Among those proposals are my commitment to increase funding annually for education, to pass legislation that cracks down on gun violence in our streets, legislation that continues the KidCare health initiative and expands substance abuse treatment programs for young people in need of these services.

EARLY EDUCATION

While 35 percent of all Illinois children are under age six, we spend only about 3 percent of state education funds preparing these children to learn. How can we make early education a priority in Illinois?

We can make early education a priority in Illinois by increasing state funding for these programs. Every dollar spent on early childhood education prevents the later expenditure of $4.75 in remedial education, crime, wel-

(see on page 5)



CHILDREN AS A PRIORITY

As governor, how will your administration respond to, coordinate and promote the needs of children as a high priority?

Our children represent Illinois' most precious asset and our best investment for the future. As governor, I will insist that our children's needs carry the very highest of priorities. This means placing a higher emphasis on education, especially early childhood education. It means recruiting, training and employing more early childhood teachers and providing more staff development for current teachers. It means expanding the funding for our early childhood education programs. It means expanding the delivery system for early childhood education beyond the public school system and reaching out to form a more comprehensive delivery system to reach more children.

I have announced a program to expand education in day care settings. I have also announced the need to refocus the Department of Children and Family Services to improve day care licensing and inspections. My education plan calls for more funding to expand full day kindergarten programs. I have also addressed the need to keep our children safe in school and I have outlined proposals to improve school safety. I will expand student transportation funds so that children in high crime areas do not have to fear going to and coming home from school. I will expand before and after school programs to give children at-risk of academic failure the assistance and help they need to succeed in school.

These measures, and more, will be taken in my administration to place the needs of our children at the very highest priority level in state government. The next governor needs to speak out often for changes that will improve services and programs for children and their parents. We need a governor who will take on the challenge of publicly speaking out on issues that impact children. And we need a governor who will continue this commitment beyond election day. As your governor, I will gladly take on that responsibility and you will have a strong child advocate sitting in the Office of Governor.

EARLY EDUCATION

While 35 percent of all Illinois children are under age six, we spend only about 3 percent of state education funds preparing these children to learn. How can we make early education a priority in Illinois?

My education plan, Advancing Better Classrooms [A.B.C.], places a strong emphasis on improving early childhood education. My A.B.C. Plan will reduce class size in kindergarten through grade three, with an initial emphasis on those school buildings on the state's Academic Early Warning List. Sixty-one

(see POSHARD on page 6)

ED 427075

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Making Kids Count on Election Day

A Column from Voices' President Jerome Stermer

The challenges facing children — and those of us who work on their behalf — are different in each community in Illinois. From our cities to our suburbs to our rural areas, issues such as education, health care and child care present distinct problems and solutions.

However, the most significant challenge facing children overall is the misconception held by too many people that these problems only concern someone else, in some other neighborhood.

The more we confront issues such as poverty, illiteracy and child safety, the more we see that they exist throughout our state, with no respect for city and county borders.

For example, every community in Illinois needs more quality child care and early education opportunities for its children. Similarly, the hundreds of thousands of Illinois children who will finally get health care coverage through the new KidCare program live in every corner of our state. In 1997, 22 of our 102 counties — including Kankakee, Rock Island and Williamson — had at least one in ten children receiving welfare. In addition, infant mortality rates are nearly identical in such different counties as Cook, McDonough and St. Clair.

"...our elected officials face a variety of decisions that impact the well-being of our children.

As they make these decisions, they need our help..."

Clearly, these problems are statewide. Just as clearly, we all have a role in solving them and improving the future for the children of our state. Parents, for example, have the first responsibility to nurture and raise the children. Teachers of all types will educate them. Doctors and nurses will help tend to their medical and physical needs.

Political leaders also play an important role, and it is essential that we focus on that role during this election season. From the governor, members of Congress and state legislators to aldermen, mayors and county supervisors, our elected officials face a variety of decisions that impact the well-being of our children.

As they make these decisions, they need our help. From the city council to the state legislature and the U.S. Congress, if we want our elected officials to make children their priority, we need to show them that children are *our* priority.

Many of us already demonstrate our concern for children throughout the year. It is even more essential that we continue to do so on Tuesday, November 3rd. Children need clear and intelligent voices speaking on their behalf, and there is no better time to make those voices heard than on Election Day. Our collective frustrations with policies in 1998 may seem an easy excuse for taking a pass on the elections this year. But staying home on Election Day is incompatible with being good child advocates. We've got to participate.

That's why the primary focus of this issue of *Voices* is the perspectives of the two leading gubernatorial candidates on children's issues. We gave the candidates this opportunity to tell us in their own words how they plan to help create a better future for the children of Illinois. We hope this information is helpful in making an informed choice about who should lead our state into the next century.

Regardless of how you vote — in this race or the many other important contests this fall — take the time to learn where the candidates stand on the crucial issues highlighted in these profiles. And on Election Day, make sure our political leaders hear your voice on behalf of all the children of Illinois.

Jerry Stermer

Teen R.E.A.C.H.
Saving Our Youth

The Center for Children's Services in Danville recently received a $316,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services to provide programs for youth and teens between 10 and 17 years old in Vermilion County. The money headed to Vermilion County is part of a $6.1 million grant for new programs throughout Illinois called Teen R.E.A.C.H. (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring and Hope.) The grant focuses on four components: recreational activities; tutoring; mentoring; and a prevention curricula called life skills.

Sen. Judy Myers (R-Springfield), Rep. Bill Black (R-Danville) and Dr. David A. Coleman of the Center for Children's Services at a recent press conference.

"All of these components will be available at seven drop-in centers throughout Vermilion county," said David Coleman, executive director of the Center for Children's Services. "A major thrust for the statewide grant is to improve attendance and performance in school. The concept is to also prevent teen problems with pregnancy and violence so they can get through school and become productive members of the work force."

Twenty-nine other agencies statewide received part of the $6.1 million dollar grant to initiate after-school programs in their areas.

The Center for Children's Services received the largest grant, which is aimed at helping at-risk youth. Recent reports show twenty-four percent of children born in Vermilion County were born to at-risk families. (defined as families where the mother was single, under the age of 20 and had less than 12 years of schooling)

"Teen R.E.A.C.H. helps meet the growing need for high-quality after school programs for at-risk youth," said Secretary of Human Services Howard Peters. "We're reaching out to more and more of these young people and intervening with positive adult role models, mentoring, academic enrichment, recreational activities, life skills and other services."

As more children are raised in families with both parents working – or by single working parents – crime data reveal that the hours between the end of school supervision and the beginning of parental supervision are increasingly becoming the peak juvenile crime hours. A new report by the Justice Policy Institute, *School House Hype: School Shootings and the Real Risks Kids Face in America*, found that after-school programs are a relatively low cost response to juvenile crime that does not restrict children's freedom, provides them with recreational and educational opportunities, and enhances Illinois communities in the process.

"A major issue for youth and teens in our part of the county is that many of them do not have an opportunity to really bond well with adult role models," Coleman said. "If we can provide an atmosphere where they are comfortable and where they trust us as adult figures, then we think they will welcome the services that we have."

Improvements in school attendance and performance are not the only areas where Coleman wants to measure the success of Teen R.E.A.C.H.

"We want to see curbs in teenage pregnancy. We want to see more teens either deflected from substance abuse or getting hooked up with special services for teens already abusing substances. It must be a complete package," Coleman said. "Teens should benefit from the social service activities as well as the academic parts included in Teen R.E.A.C.H." ◆

—By Marjorie Newman

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ten Tips For Parents

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy recently published *Ten Tips for Parents To Help Their Children Avoid Teen Pregnancy.* The pamphlet also includes a list of easily available resources that help parents talk more effectively with their children. Here's an abbreviated form of the ten tips:

1. Be clear about your own sexual values and attitudes. Communication with your children about sex is often more successful when you are certain in your own mind about these issues.
2. Talk with your children early and often about sex, and be specific! Initiate the conversation and make sure it's a dialogue, not a monologue.
3. Supervise and monitor your children by establishing rules, curfews, and standards of expected behavior, preferably through an open process of family discussion.
4. Know your children's friends and their families. Welcome them into your home and talk openly.
5. Discourage early, frequent and steady dating. One-on-one dating much before age 16 can lead to trouble.
6. Take a strong stand against your daughter dating a boy significantly older than she is and don't allow your son to develop an intense relationship with a girl much younger than he. The power difference between younger girls and older boys or men can lead girls into risky situations.
7. Show your teen that there are options for the future that are more attractive than early parenthood. Help them set meaningful goals for the future and discuss what it takes to make those goals come true.
8. School failure is often the first sign of trouble; let your kids know that you value education highly.
9. Know what your kids are watching, reading, and listening to. Remember, you can always turn the TV off, cancel subscriptions, and place certain movies off limits.
10. These first nine tips work best when they are part of strong, close relationships with your children that are built from an early age. Express love and affection clearly and often, listen carefully to what your children say, spend time with your children and engage in activities that they like. Be supportive and interested in what interests them, and help them build self-esteem. Remember, it's never too late to improve a relationship with a child or teenager. ◆

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY'S WEB SITE AT WWW.TEENPREGNANCY.ORG.

Illinois Family Partnership Network:

Working Summit

More than 150 parent leaders met recently in Springfield to share ideas on developing and enhancing parent networks throughout Illinois. This was the first "Working Summit" of the Illinois Family Partnership Network (formerly the Parent Leadership Network).

The Illinois Family Partnership Network (IFPN) is a statewide network of parents, organizations and state agencies committed to the understanding that family involvement is fundamental to improving outcomes for children. Statewide organizations involved in the IFPN include the Family Resource Coalition of America, Illinois Federation of Families, Illinois Head Start Association, Illinois Parents and Teachers Association, Illinois Parents Anonymous, National Parent Information Network, Ounce of Prevention Fund and Voices for Illinois Children.

"Parent leaders came ready to work," said Voices' Senior Projects Director Gaylord Gieseke, one of IFPN's founding members. "They came together to increase their effectiveness in partnering and building alliances in order to improve state, regional and community-based programs for children, youth and families. A major goal was to launch regional networks of parents involved in a broad spectrum of efforts."

As a result, participants at the meeting endorsed a strategic plan of action for achieving increased parent involvement throughout Illinois. The plan calls for an increase in the number of family leaders who will be available to participate in public policy initiatives, and in effective program design and evaluation.

IFPN was created not as a response to a lack of parental involvement, but out of recognition that parental involvement is essential to identifying realistic solutions to the complex challenges families face in raising their children.

"Many parents and family members raising children are already active in their communities," said Gieseke. "But what we all agreed on during the summit is that Illinois needs to work hard towards establishing new ways of partnering with families and supporting their leadership efforts. They have a vital role to play and that's why it is imperative we have parents and other family members who are raising children, in the front leading the way for improved conditions for children and their families."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE IFPN, CALL VOICES AT (312) 456-0600.

Update

Start Early Program Associate Aniccia Miller reviews the key messages of the communications materials geared toward teen moms.

As the *Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* campaign prepares to enter its second year, momentum continues to build. The parent education and public awareness campaign was designed to reach young, at-risk parents through programs they rely on and people they trust. The *Start Early* materials – an upbeat, contemporary video and magazine – represent a unique approach to communicating with this target audience, and the initial feedback is extremely positive.

"The response from direct service providers confirm that our message and materials are on target," said *Start Early* Project Director Joan Vitale. "The *Start Early* topic areas match the concerns of their groups, so these materials are highly credible and increase opportunities for productive communication."

Vitale and *Start Early* Program Associate Aniccia Miller have identified 110 organizations as partners and have met with about two-thirds of them to discuss the communications materials in detail. In the pilot stage the campaign will distribute thirty-three thousand videos to young, at-risk parents in Chicago. Already, over 10,000 videos have been distributed.

Project Director Joan Vitale educates others about *Voices' Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* campaign.

"All of the survey cards that we have received from parents note that the magazine and video gave them new ideas about things to do with their child," said Vitale.

The *Start Early* campaign is also gaining national recognition. Voices' staff will attend a national training institute in December held by Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families in Washington, D.C. Voices will present the *Start Early* radio and transit ads to answer the question 'How do you engage teen parents through a media opportunity?'.

Increasing awareness of the developmental needs of infants and children is not only a goal for parents, but for communities throughout Illinois. A growing number of people recognize that providing for our children is an investment in the future.

"Building on that recognition, we developed the *Start Early* Community Forums to bring candidates and voters together and place children and family issues at the top of the political agenda," said Voices' President Jerome Stermer. "These forums will help each of us focus on creating a better future for our children."

Several communities throughout Illinois have already held their forums and several others have completed plans for their upcoming event. If you are interested in hosting a forum or would like more information on the *Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* campaign, call Voices at (312) 456-0600.

—*By Marjorie Newman*

A Step in the Right Direction

The Illinois Department of Human Services has made several policy changes regarding subsidized day care assistance to non-TANF parents in education and training programs. The changes do not include additional funds beyond the $7.5 million already set aside for child care services.

Non-TANF parents working no less than 25 hours per week in a paying job and in need of child care to attend school are eligible for child care assistance. This will increase to 30 hours per week beginning October 1, 1999.

Assistance is limited to two years, including any assistance received by parents under the grandfather provision during FY98. The time limit does not affect teen parents through the age 19 who are trying to obtain a high school degree or its equivalent.

If a parent's adjusted income is less than 50 percent of the state's median income, they are eligible for child care assistance. (Earned income, including child support, minus 10 percent equals the adjusted income.)

Parents enrolled in education or training programs who may be eligible for a child care subsidy should contact their Child Care Resource & Referral Center for information on how to apply.

Voices on the Web:

The Illinois State Reporter Project

Voices for Illinois Children has been selected by the Benton Foundation as the Illinois State Reporter for the KidsCampaigns project. KidsCampaigns is a national communications project that provides a one-stop Web site for parents and child advocates, including links to dozens of organizations that work with children and families in Illinois.

As the Illinois State Reporter, Voices is working with the Benton Foundation to provide more information about children's issues and to increase connections to key organizations around the state. The Voices' Web site has been linked to the KidsCampaigns Web site (www.kidscampaigns.org), so that people seeking information about children's issues in Illinois get connected directly to Voices' "Recent Updates" page.

As importantly, the support of the Benton Foundation enables us to significantly expand the links on our Web site to the many other organizations in Illinois that provide services and information to children and families. Take a look at the Voices' Web site (www.voices4kids.org) and see how we've expanded already. Also, if you know of an organization that should be linked to our site, contact Alan Simpson at simpson_alan@voices4kids.org or (312) 516-5551. ♦

The Chicago Community Trust: Putting Community Assets to Work

When Voices for Illinois Children was created in 1985, it was with significant support and assistance from the Chicago Community Trust. That vital support is just one example of how the Trust has responded to community needs and assets since its establishment in 1915.

The Chicago Community Trust promotes a variety of civic leadership and public awareness efforts in the Chicago area, including the Community Service Fellowship Program, the Young Leaders Group, Future Leaders Chicago and the Chicago Matters series of forums and media reports. In addition, the Trust supports a multitude of initiatives and programs in the arts and humanities, civic affairs, education, health and social causes.

The Trust was founded as an umbrella through which concerned citizens could pool charitable dollars to work for the benefit of metropolitan Chicago. As the second oldest community foundation in the country, the Trust has a record of numerous bequests and other contributions that form permanent endowments. It also serves as an excellent demonstration of how individuals, families, corporations and other entities can join together to improve the future for their community. ♦

RYAN (continued from front page)

fare and other costs. One goal of my administration is to make sure that all children read at the third-grade level by the time they finish third grade. To do this, we need to hire 10,000 new teachers in Illinois and place them in the primary grades so children receive the attention they need to succeed.

EDUCATION REFORM

As long as schools are funded primarily by local property taxes, there will be a great difference in programs between school districts. How can we begin to provide quality education to students in every part of the state? There is a direct connection between social services and success in school. How can Illinois improve other services – such as nutrition, transportation, pre-kindergarten and after-school programs – that will help children come to school ready to learn?

I oppose an income tax increase. I have not been shown a detailed plan of how a property tax-for-income tax swap can be accomplished that will keep property taxes low and really boost school aid. I am committed to allocating 51 cents of every new general revenue dollar to education and to making the funding reforms of 1997 permanent.

A major thrust of my education program is support for early childhood initiatives that give children the head start they need during the school day to succeed. Another initiative I plan is a campaign designed to encourage more parent involvement in every aspect of a child's schooling, so parents and teachers can work as partners to help their children.

CHILD CARE

Research shows that early brain stimulation and nurturing care play a crucial role in the first few years of a child's developmental process. How can Illinois improve quality child care programs in the state?

I will provide the leadership necessary to fill the current gap in child care in Illinois. Right now, there is only enough available child care to serve seven percent of the 438,000 infants and toddlers in Illinois who need help. I plan to work with the child care community and legislators to make child care more affordable and more accessible to all neighborhoods. Quality, affordable child care is one key to helping parents leave welfare for a job that supports a family.

HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

Family support and home visiting programs – like Healthy Families Illinois – cost $3,500 per year while one year of substitute care costs $20,000 per child. What would you do to further support home visiting programs in Illinois?

I believe that Healthy Families Illinois and similar programs are the type of preventative steps that should be taken to prevent on-going or future problems within families. I would seek an expansion of these initiatives to reach more parents and children.

WELFARE REFORM

Of poor families in Illinois with children, only 23 percent are working full-time year round. How can Illinois assist more families in transitioning and maintaining self-sufficiency?

State government can assist these families by providing job training, adult education and basic literacy instruction, including classes for women sheltered in abuse centers. We can assist by making sure that public transportation is positioned to move people to their jobs, ensure the availability of quality and affordable child care services and by making sure that families have a true economic incentive to leave welfare for a payroll.

HEALTH

There are approximately 310,000 uninsured children in Illinois. The state's new health insurance plan – KidCare – will provide health coverage to about 200,000 children. How can Illinois ensure that more families know about KidCare and that more children benefit from preventive health care?

I pledge to continue funding for KidCare. I will also engage in a public awareness campaign to promote the program. A similar public awareness program I initiated for the state's organ donor awareness program has been very successful.

STATE FISCAL POLICY

Families in Illinois begin paying taxes at a lower level of income than almost every other state in the country. What would you do to make state fiscal policy more progressive, and help make more families economically self-sufficient?

All of the programs I have discussed are designed to help lift families out of poverty and to make more families economically self-sufficient. We can make our state fiscal policy more progressive by investing in our children and families to ensure their viability in the 21st Century. ♦

POSHARD
(continued from front page)

percent of Academic Early Warning List schools have kindergarten classes with more than 25 children. Some kindergarten classes are as high as 44 children. Our children deserve a better classroom environment. I will insist that we reduce class size in kindergarten through grade three to no more than 19 students.

We will also expand full-day kindergarten programs. About 62 percent of school districts with kindergartens offer parents a full-day option. A recent Purdue University study found that full-day kindergarten programs were more child-oriented, teachers had more flexibility, there was more one-on-one instruction, and children spent more time in learning activities. As your governor, I will provide funding to help our schools expand full-day kindergarten programs.

We will expand services to the age 3-5 population where an estimated 50,000 children are waiting to enter early childhood education programs. We will increase the proportion of funds allocated to the 0-3 population, which currently receives only 3 percent of block grant funds. And we will expand early childhood education in day care settings.

Also, we must expand our outreach to recruit, train, and hire more early childhood education teachers. My education plan calls for more scholarships and funding to help our schools address this shortage area.

I was a classroom teacher long before I ran for public office. I know that early childhood education programs are essential to helping young children acquire the basic skills they need to succeed in school. As your governor, I intend to place early childhood education as a high priority on the education agenda.

EDUCATION REFORM

As long as schools are funded primarily by local property taxes, there will be a great difference in programs between school districts. How can we begin to provide quality education to students in every part of the state? There is a direct connection between social services and success in school. How can Illinois improve other services – such as nutrition, transportation, pre-kindergarten and after-school programs – that will help children come to school ready to learn?

My opponent has announced in his education plan that as governor he will "place a moratorium on new reforms." That one action alone will result in abandoning thousands of Illinois children and leaving them to continue being at-risk of academic failure. Mr. Ryan wants us to remain comfortable with the status-quo. When it comes to the welfare of our children, I am not willing to accept a "moratorium" on reform.

Illinois relies too heavily upon the property tax base to fund our schools. I have proposed that we start immediately with $400 million in property tax relief, with state revenues replacing local property tax dollars. I will insist that we meet our financial commitments to schools through honoring the minimum foundation levels set for the next two fiscal years and I will insist that the legislature continue to give schools long-range notice on future foundation levels. As your governor, I will not allow the state to continue to ignore the categorical grant programs which continue to be severely prorated. I have made a commitment to begin moving us toward, and not away from, full funding for our categorical grant programs.

I have proposed increasing funding and services for transportation so that more of our children living in high crime areas can go to and from school safely. No child should have to be afraid of going to and coming from school. I will provide funding to greatly expand before and after school programs. These programs will provide additional remedial and enrichment programs for our children. I have outlined a seven point program to help all children learn to become better readers. Finally, I will significantly improve and expand upon our early childhood education programs and services to help our children prepare for school.

CHILD CARE

Research shows that early brain stimulation and nurturing care play a crucial role in the first few years of a child's developmental process. How can Illinois improve quality child care programs in the state?

In July, I announced a comprehensive program to improve our child care programs throughout the state. I stated that I would launch a new program in day care services, offering pre-school educational opportunities through full-time day care centers. I also pledged to revamp the state's day care licensing and inspection services.

I believe that we must realign our state priorities when it comes to child care. We must give more moderate income families help with the costs of day care. Illinois used to offer subsidies to families who earned 60 percent or less of the median state income. Republicans cut the number to 50 percent. I will restore it back to 60 percent.

As your governor, I will insist that we improve enforcement of licensing standards for child care facilities and I will ensure that we have appropriate staffing and training of inspectors. I will appoint a Day Care Licensing Policy Coordinator who will take the lead on these efforts.

Working with child care advocates, we will revise educational standards for child care workers based on nationally recognized best practices. I will also increase state child care subsidies, allowing providers to improve their employees' wages. It is unacceptable that our child care facilities must face a 40 percent annual turnover rate due in part to low pay scales.

I will commit additional resources towards a program of financial incentives to home child care providers and day care center staff who pursue training in early childhood education. I will provide incentives for day care providers to seek formal accreditation for their programs.

Expanding tax incentives for employers who assist their workers in finding appropriate child care will also be a priority. This will include such services as offering on-site child care or a free referral service to help find off-hour care. We will intensify our outreach efforts to employers since only a small portion of Illinois businesses participate in the existing incentive program.

HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

Family support and home visiting programs – like Healthy Families Illinois – cost $3,500 per year while one year of substitute care cost $20,000 per child. What would you do to further support home visiting programs in Illinois?

The home visiting program is an important aspect of the overall child care program. Though our education program, we will expand funding for programs that help families with young children. Parents will be given the support and assistance they need to help their children grow and learn. We will give parents access to information and programs that will help improve parenting skills, give them information on nutrition, and make sure that they are informed about the various state and local programs and services that are available to them.

WELFARE REFORM

Of poor families in Illinois with children, only 23 percent are working full-time year round. How can Illinois assist more families in transitioning and maintaining self-sufficiency?

The key to helping adults transition to and maintain self-sufficiency lies in expanding employment opportunities and education. Our education system needs to help through expanding adult education opportunities so that more individuals can have access to the skills and knowledge needed to obtain jobs. Our business partners need to help us improve the quality of education and open job training opportunities. The state must expand funding for programs that link local schools with local businesses to promote job-training programs and create more jobs. The

state can provide incentive funds to schools and local businesses to share in the cost of job training. I will set aside state funds to promote job-training programs that lead directly to employment.

Providing education, training and jobs is only a part of the answer. We must provide all of these, but without giving parents affordable and reliable day care options we leave them in a very difficult position. The state must provide parents seeking to improve employment skills the assistance they deserve. This means helping them with their transportation needs. It means opening the doors of adult, technical and vocational education to them, and giving them the assistance and support they need to succeed.

HEALTH

There are approximately 310,000 uninsured children in Illinois. The state's new health insurance plan – KidCare – will provide health coverage to about 200,000 children. How can Illinois ensure that more families know about KidCare and that more children benefit from preventive health care?

Illinois must take a leading role in disseminating information and marketing the KidCare program. The state spends millions of dollars each year advertising and promoting the state for tourism. Disseminating and marketing the KidCare program deserves just as high a public relations priority.

As your governor, I will direct the various code departments to help disseminate information about the KidCare program. I will direct the Department of Public Aid to assume responsibility for a coordinated statewide public information dissemination program with specific outreach goals and objectives . I will personally review the results of this program. We will begin an aggressive public information campaign to inform parents of this critical health insurance program and we will develop a specific strategic and coordinated state plan to assure its success. As your governor, I will insist upon nothing less.

STATE FISCAL POLICY

Families in Illinois begin paying taxes at a lower level of income than almost every other state in the country. What would you do to make state fiscal policy more progressive, and help make more families economically self-sufficient?

My fiscal policy for the state of Illinois is to make education and the children of this state our highest priority. Through providing more education options, expanding day care opportunities, and expanding job training and employment training programs we can provide the training and skills that lead to employment. The key to helping more families become economically self-sufficient is through employment. I have outlined a host of education, job training, and day care initiatives, which are aimed at helping families acquire the training and skills that will enable them to obtain employment. As your governor, I will also work personally with business leaders around the state to expand and promote job training opportunities that will help families become more economically self-sufficient. I believe the governor can play a powerful role in working with business to create jobs and I am committed to doing so. Finally, our fiscal policy must include keeping our state's checkbook balanced, closing corporate tax loopholes that have outlived their original purpose, and promoting the development and expansion of small businesses to create jobs.

Illinois Learning Partnership
Networking to Advance Education

The Illinois Learning Partnership (ILP) explores ideas and creates new programs to help teachers teach and students learn. Started in 1986, the ILP now works with 38,000 teachers in 197 school districts across the state – affecting nearly 700,000 students.

The ILP is divided into regional networks that work to improve schools through cooperative ventures that give educators, parents and business leaders a bigger stake in the educational system.

Members of the Illinois Learning Partnership share ideas at a recent retreat. From left to right are Sharon Voliva, Illinois PTA; Dr. James Naylor, Consultant; Victoria Davis, ILP Executive Director; Dr. Mary Jayne Broncato, ISBE; and Jo Anderson, Illinois Education Association.

"If you empower teachers to feel ownership and feel that they are part of a decision-making team, they eventually get an in-control feeling that transfers to the classroom," said ILP Executive Director Victoria Davis. "We know that students respond better to teachers who implement creative teaching methods without hesitation."

The ILP recognizes that parental involvement is key to student achievement, but it also knows that business leaders and others have a lot to add to the puzzle. Davis said other groups have information that would be beneficial to teachers, which is why the ILP is trying to link teaching networks to community and state resources and organizations.

"If I had a magic wand I'd open up the rest of the world to give teachers all they could to make the best and brightest students," said Davis. "Nothing will happen for kids until we get these untraditional voices to speak."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ILP AND THE REGIONAL NETWORK NEAR YOU, CALL VICTORIA DAVIS AT (815) 588-3560.

Start Early: Street Fairs

Hundreds of people visited Voices' booths at several recent Chicago street fairs. Voices shared information about the *Start Early: Learning Begins at Birth* campaign and other advocacy efforts during the Oz Festival in Lincoln Park (pictured here), the 69th Annual Bud Billiken Parade and Picnic at Washington Park, and the Black Expo.

Business Cares for Kids

PROFILE

CITIBANK

Citibank is known by many as one of the nation's largest banks and the world's largest issuer of credit cards. What many do not know is that Citibank also has a solid reputation for its charitable efforts and family friendly workplace.

Alvaro de Souza (center), Citibank's North American Consumer Bank head, and C. Mack (right), president and CEO of Citibank FSB's Central region., brought a housewarming gift to Curtis Rice Sr. when they toured his apartment in one of the new replacement-housing units Citibank helped fund in Chicago.

Citibank's standing as a business that "cares for kids" becomes evident as you look at their role as an employer. Through Citibank's *Family Resources*, their employees have access to a full range of referral services for childcare, adoption, education and other family issues. Nationally, Citibank has four child care centers located in close proximity to various service centers around the country to help working mothers handle their child care needs and stay on the job. With approximately 50 branches in Illinois, their employees have access to a full range of referral services for child care.

Citibank also demonstrates its belief that businesses and communities must grow hand-in-hand by contributing to the health and vitality of the community as well as strengthening its economy. They use their business expertise in partnership with local residents and institutions to help make a difference for children and families. For example, ***Banking on Education*** — one of Citibank's and the Citicorp Foundation's principal philanthropic initiatives worldwide — is a $25 million, decade-long commitment to create "smarter classrooms" and "smarter schools". They help connect children to the thrill of learning through classroom technologies that provide access to world-class education resources. In Chicago, Citibank's ***Hire the Future*** program brings students into the workplace as part-time employees to give them an opportunity to experience corporate life first-hand.

Through their $10 million *Banking on Enterprise* program, Citibank makes small loans available that enable those lacking resources to start and expand small businesses. As an example, the bank is working in partnership with the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), the Habitat Company, a private developer, and a nonprofit organization to improve high-rise public housing on the city's near West Side. "Our kids couldn't play outside. Now, we can't keep them inside," said Curtis Rice, Sr., who lives in one of 466 rental units Citibank helped fund in new, lower-density buildings for low and moderate-income residents.

In addition to their community development investments and their workplace policies, Citibank employees and their retirees increase the reach of Citibank's institutional initiatives by volunteering time and giving generously on their own. In Chicago, Citibank employees can be seen volunteering with the March of Dimes, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Cares and for countless other organizations and causes. According to Suzanne Jakstavich with Citibank Human Resources in Chicago, "giving back to the community is just part of our corporate culture." Their planned merger with Travelers Group will bring together two organizations with core commitments to the communities in which they operate. Citibank is another fine example of how ***Business Cares for Kids.*** ◆

—By Jim Perry

Business Cares for Kids

AN UPDATE

For the past year, business leaders have come together quarterly, through the Business Cares for Kids Corporate Roundtable, to discuss ways corporate leadership can help solve the problems facing children in our state. Over the next year these quarterly breakfast meetings will be replaced by a monthly luncheon convened by the Chair of our Board of Directors.

The new *Board Chair's Luncheon* will be a series in which a small group of Voices' Board members, business leaders and Voices' staff and allies come together for a presentation on — and discussion of — a particular issue.

Through these discussions, participants will have an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the complex challenges facing children in our state. The educational nature of the *Board Chair's Luncheon* is designed to give more business leaders the tools they need to become more active in the public debate over children's issues.

Planned topics for the upcoming series of lunches include:

- *The Need for Quality Child Care*
- *The Impact of Welfare Reform*
- *Update on Voices'* Start Early *Campaign*
- *Child Health Insurance*
- *Supporting Family Leadership*
- *Current Indicators of Child Well-Being in Illinois*

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BUSINESS CARES FOR KIDS, CONTACT JIM PERRY AT: (312) 456-0600, EXT. 552.

Network News

Illinois Advocates Speak Up for Kids

Meet others across the state who are speaking out for kids. These are just a few of the Voices' members, volunteers and friends making a difference for young people in their communities and across the state.

BLOOMINGTON

The **Children's Foundation Crisis Nursery** is celebrating its second anniversary in October 1998. Program Director **Beth Burgener** says as the only crisis nursery in Bloomington, they are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Burgener also notes that Outreach Workers work closely with families after their child leaves the crisis nursery. The Outreach Workers conduct needs assessments, assist with employment research and conduct home visits.

CHICAGO

Congratulations to five Chicago area teachers who were recognized for their dedication to nurturing the early learning of our youth: **Angela R. Jones, O'Keeffe Elementary School – Chicago; Annie Catherine Brown, Franklin Fine Arts Center – Chicago; Susie Vaughan, Prairie Children Preschool – Naperville; Delores M. Wedgeworth, University of Illinois – Chicago; and Liana Giannoni, Giannoni Home Day Care – Chicago** are the winners of the 1998 Kohl/ McCormick Early Childhood Teaching Awards. Nominations for the 1999 awards are open from August 1, 1998 to December 1, 1998. For more information call (312) 335-KIDS.

The **Community Counseling Centers of Chicago** recently completed a parent education class for Spanish speaking parents. The class, part of the Parent Education Program on Montrose Ave., is geared toward improving child-rearing practices by changing parental attitudes, equipping parents with new skills and enhancing parent-child relationships. Parent Education Coordinator **Katharine Bensinger** says the six-week series includes home visits and is designed to prevent children and families from becoming part of the DCFS system.

Family Focus Nuestra Familia Center recently received a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education to begin a Prevention Initiative home visiting program. Mi Niño y Yo (My Child and I) serves expectant parents and parents of children from birth to three. The free program offers information on health, community resources for families, and educational activities for parents and children.

EAST ST. LOUIS

Parent Coordinator **Edwina Hollins** is excited about the work of **Parents are Vital to Education (PAVE)**. PAVE, a parental component of Adventures In Motivation, trains parents to work with school personnel and students to support educational growth of their children. Hollins says they expect to significantly increase their effectiveness since they recently hired five parent organizers.

ROCKFORD

Monarch House, a newly renovated recovery home for adolescent girls, recently opened its doors. The Monarch House has 10 beds for young women who have completed the primary in-patient programs but require the extended care and structure of a halfway house. **The Rosecrance Foundation**, which operates Monarch House and several other facilities, provides substance abuse treatment for adolescents and adults, job readiness and parent education programs.

SCHAUMBURG

Rainbows – dedicated to helping children, teens and families cope with the emotional pain of loss from divorce, separation, death and abandonment – is celebrating 15 years of service. A "Memory Quilt" is being created from patches sent from facilitators at various national and international sites who have been involved with Rainbows since its inception. Rainbows has also renewed its commitment and aims to serve an additional 60,000 children within the next three years. **Suzy Yehl Marta** is the founder and president of the non-profit organization.

Recognizing the need for business involvement in child care, **Roosevelt University** and **Zurich-American Insurance** have joined forces to create the Early Childhood Education Center housed on Roosevelt's north suburban campus. Opened in July 1998, the center provides services to children of Roosevelt faculty and students as well as Zurich employees. The facility serves infants and children up to age 6 during the day program. Between 6 and 9:30 p.m., the center serves infants and children up to age 12.

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN

Brian Matakis recently joined Voices as Project Director. Matakis oversees Voices' State Finances projects and monitors legislative activities that affect children. Prior to joining Voices in July 1998, Matakis received a Master of Arts in Public Affairs from the University of Minnesota.

Kim Fitzgerald recently joined Voices as Community Advocacy Associate. She is responsible for building and maintaining relationships with Voices' community contacts, while actively engaging them in policy and advocacy activities. Prior to joining Voices, Fitzgerald received a Masters in Social Work from the University of Michigan. Fitzgerald brings to Voices five years of direct services in children and adult mental health.

Voices' Board Member **Brazilian Thurman** has been selected to work on the Illinois Director Credential Management Team. She will make significant contributions to the development of the credential, a new standard for measurement of the management and leadership capabilities of early care and education program directors in Illinois. The Illinois Director Credential Management Team is funded by the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation's Focus on Quality initiative.

Voices' Board Member **George Kelm** was the recipient of the first Julius Nyerere Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions from the Centers for New Horizons. The award honors Nyerere's leadership in the struggle for the independence of Tanzania and his work as the country's first president. Through his work with Voices, Centers for New Horizons, the Council on Foundations, the Woods Fund of Chicago and Sahara Enterprises, Kelm has been a guiding force in efforts to raise the quality of life for all people in Chicago and Illinois.

IF YOU KNOW A PERSON OR A GROUP THAT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED FOR GREAT ADVOCACY EFFORTS, CALL MARJORIE NEWMAN AT (312) 516-5564.

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN
NETWORK NEWS
208 S. LASALLE ST., SUITE 1580
CHICAGO, IL 60604
E-Mail: info@voices4kids.org

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Building a Charter for the Future: The Next 100 Years

As part of a yearlong Children's Court Centennial Commemoration, Voices for Illinois Children and the Children and Family Justice Center of Northwestern University Law Center are hosting a three-day conference called *Who Are the Children of Illinois? – Building a Charter for the Future.* Focusing primarily on justice for children, *Who Are the Children of Illinois* will outline ways everyone in society can help Illinois' children prepare for the future.

The Chicago conference, scheduled for February 18 - 20, 1999, will explore the unique place of children in our society and examine their needs and expectations in six key areas: health; education; safety; families; economic security; and recreation and culture. To examine these issues many different groups concerned with children, including parents, community leaders, professionals and policymakers will come together to produce a comprehensive assessment of our responsibilities toward children – a Children's Charter.

"Too often adults forget that when planning for society's future, we are actually planning for the future of our children," said Voices' President Jerome Stermer. "This Charter will serve as a blueprint for their future."

The need for a statewide dialogue and a Children's Charter can be seen in a variety of data about conditions facing children. More than 37,000 Illinois children were victims of abuse or neglect last year. High school students face danger from gangs and drive-by shootings, while working parents struggle to find quality child care. And although recent brain research confirms that 90 percent of brain development occurs during the first few years of life, Illinois spends only about 3 percent of state education funds preparing children under age six to learn.

The Charter will be distributed throughout Illinois to illustrate the many challenges facing children and to unite parents, communities, professionals and political leaders in the task of helping all our children flourish.

Who Are the Children of Illinois is one of many activities being planned as part of the commemoration the 100th anniversary of the Juvenile Court of Cook County – the first juvenile court in the world. ◆

Other Voices Events

Voices is sponsoring a Book Fair featuring author Richard Peck on Friday, October 23, 1998. Peck will be signing and reading from his newest book "Long Way from Chicago" at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore in the Old Orchard Center in Skokie. Peck is also the author of "Father Figure" and "Ghosts I Have Seen". ◆

On October 28 & 29, 1998, Voices and the Illinois Council for the Prevention of Violence will co-sponsor a statewide conference entitled "Violence Prevention: Exploring Our Roots – Expanding Our Reach". The Springfield conference will bring leading experts in the field of violence prevention to Illinois to discuss an array of concerns including, adult/youth alliance building, school-based violence, substance abuse, and gang violence prevention. ◆

Advocacy Resources: Know Your Facts

Voices produces materials that can help us all become better advocates for young people. Here are a few examples of the available resources:

Closing the Gap:
Insuring Children in Illinois

This report details the state's new KidCare program, which will provide health insurance to thousands of uninsured children. The report includes information on services provided and cost per family based on size and income.

- *Complimentary.*

1998 National Kids Count Data Book

This book tracks the status of children in the United States on a national and state-by-state level, measuring the educational, social, economic and physical well-being of children.

- *Complimentary.*

Illinois Kids Count:
Learning Begins at Birth (1997-1998)

While focusing on recent brain research and the importance of early education for children, this report provides child well-being statistics for each of Illinois' 102 counties and outlines an agenda to improve the lives of children.

- *Complimentary.*

Illinois Data Reconnaissance and Improvement Project:
Executive Summary

Funded by the Poverty & Race Research Action Council, this project studied the availability, accessibility and quality of data on programs for low-income and minority groups in Illinois, including health, education, income support and housing programs.

- *Complimentary.*

Information is Power! A Guide to Fear-Free Fact Finding

This award-winning technical assistance guide offers step-by-step instructions for locating data on children and families, as well as equations for calculating basic statistics.

- *Complimentary.*

Ten Things Every Child Needs

An 11-minute video summary of the one-hour show explaining the needs of infants and young children. This fascinating video, produced by WTTW/Channel 11 and supported by the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, shows 10 easy things parents can do to support the development of their baby.

- *Call the McCormick Tribune Foundation at 1-888-683-2224.*

MANY VOICES PUBLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE. VISIT US AT WWW.VOICES4KIDS.ORG.

Voices, the Joint Center for Poverty Research, the Cook County Task Force on Welfare Reform and the Center for Urban Research and Policy Studies have scheduled a Welfare Reform Conference on December 15, 1998. The conference, which will be held in Chicago, will bring together social services representatives and advocates from around the state to discuss what has worked and what hasn't worked as a result of welfare reform. ◆

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS, CONTACT VOICES AT (312) 456-0600.

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN IS A TAX-EXEMPT CORPORATION UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CODE SECTION 501(C)(3) AND IS NOT CLASSIFIED AS A PRIVATE FOUNDATION. CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOICES TAKE ON AN INFINITE VARIETY OF FORMS.

WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY DURING THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 1, 1998 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 1998.

Voices for Illinois Children has been added to the list of participating organizations in the 1998 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC allows federal employees to contribute money to health and human service organizations through payroll deduction. Federal employees may now designate Voices as a recipient of their donation. For more information on making donations to Voices through this fall's campaign, contact Jim Perry at (312) 456-0600.

Individuals, Groups and Associations

Alice and Aaron Adler
Judith A. Allen
Vince A. Allocco, Ph.D.
Dan Alpert
Joanne Alter
Harriet Ancel
Virginia and Lester Ayers
Isabel Baker
Lorraine and Randolph Barba
Julia and John Beckman
Louise M. Beem
Nannette Bell
Ruth and Leroy Belzer
Charlene Bennington
Jay E. Berkelhamer, M.D.
Elaine and Ronald Berquist
Heidi K. Biederman
Margaret D. Bird
Elizabeth Birt
Jeanette and James Bitter
Mary and Lachlan Blair
Judy and Peter Bordwell
Peter Borowski
Jean K. Borre
Charles Brown
Eloy Burciaga
Carolyn Burden
Michael Burke
Darleen Calcaterra
Therese and Paul Campbell
CASA of Will County
Chicago Area Combined Federal Campaign
Child Care Resource & Referral
Children's Home & Aid Society of Illinois
Wendy A. Chill
Myrna Christopherson
Micki and Anthony Chulick
Sr. Barbara Jean Ciszek
Thomas A. Clancy
Debby Clinch
Charlotte Cohen
Jane and John Colman
Community Support Services
Community Unit School District No. 300
Tom Cordaro
Jeanne Crowley and Peter Bernstein
Rosemary Crowley and Morton Arnsdorf
Anita Darrow
Merri Dee
John Deimel
Hilary Denk
Leon Denton
Vera Durbin
Alvina M. Eineke
Kathy and Michael Elliott
Scott Emery
Lisa Finks
Janet S. Fisher
Ruth M. Fisher
Audrey H. Fitzgerald
Robert Fitzgerald
Mary and George Fitzpatrick
Maureen E. Flamm
Colleen E. Flynn
Earl J. Frederick
Henry Gault, M.D.S.C.
Linda and Hal Gerber
Gerry and Stan Glass
Patricia Gomez
Ellen Gossage
Anthony Graefe and Rebecca Noble
Greater DuPage MYM
Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Griffin
Carolyn Grisko
Delph A. Gustitus
Patricia and William Hagenah
Alderman Madeline Haithcock
Kathleen L. Halloran
Mary and Al Harkrader
Harlem Consolidated High School
Alyce and Jay Hirschi
Stuart Hirsh
Jane Hollis
Lynn P. House
Susan and Nic Howell
Kathleen and Ali Jackiw
Paula K. Jaudes, M.D.
Judith Jepsen-Popel
Carol Johnson and Gregory Sultan
Karen Kaczanowski
Susan Kanter and Kimberly Hickman
Anne C. Kaplan
Carol and Bill Kaplan
Pamela G. Keeran
Doris Jean Keller
Stacia and David Kemp
Therese J. Kiley
Donald Klimovich
Marcelline Koch
Linda Kolbusz
Agnes Kovacs
Regina Kramer
Kermit Krueger
Betty Lazarus
G. Michael Lebeau
Laurie LeBreton
Frances and Elliot Lehman
Representative David R. Leitch
Vivian M. Leith
Pat Leitzen-Fye
Carol and Paul Lingenfelter
Lynn R. Liston
Mrs. Glen A. Lloyd
Donna Loundy
Gary MacDougal and Charlene Gehn
William and Lois Malone
Joan and Richard Mandel
Rabbi Barry Marks
Nancy I. Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Mayer Jr.
Mrs. Frank D. Mayer
Arnold L. Mayster
Beverly J. McElmurry
Marisa McGray
David Means
Brenda Melcher
Martha Melman
Lois and Hugo Melvoin
Demetra Merikas
Sheila M. Merry
Harriet and Ulrich Meyer
W. Noell Michaels
Peggy Miller
Berneice Mills-Thomas
Josephine and Newton Minow
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Mitchell III
Kendra Morrill
Nancy F. Morse
Mr. and Mrs. William Mowry
Marta Moya-Leang
Dr. Margaret E. O'Flynn and Dr. Alexander Muster
Nancy J. Nagle
Bernice and Seymour Nordenberg
Irene I. Nordine
Mary and Edward O'Hare
Joan O'Malley
Oliver Dunlop Associates
Ted Oppenheimer
Jean and Howard Osborn
Veronica and Patrick Patt
Planned Parenthood Peoria
Cindy and Jay Pritzker
Kalidas and Bhagya Lakshmi Puppala
Gary Reinbold
Linda M. Rio
Lisa K. Robinson
Nancy Ronquillo
Norman Ross
Mary L. Salisbury
Betty Lu and Paul Saltzman
Dr. and Mrs. Joel Sammet
Wayne I. Sampson
Barbara and Jerry Savitt
Ellen Scholly
Nancy Schulte
Joan C. Scott
Marshall Seeder and Cynthia Lee
Midge Perlman Shafton
Mary and Charles Shea
Devorah and Saul Sherman
Mickie Silverstein
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin I. Simon
Joan C. Sivley
Leo Smith and Heather Steans
Constance Solberg
Julie Spielberger
Roseanne Stansbury
Lois and Harrison Steans
Talmage M. Steele
Nancy and Jerome Stermer
Nancy and Adlai Stevenson
Susan and Victor Stone
Mr. and Mrs. W. Clement Stone
Marilyn K. Straus
Barbara F. Stuart
Diane Suciu
Joseph R. Sullivan
Grace and Lenard Swanson
Katherine Trippi
Mary Beth and John Tsarpalas
United Way of McLean County
Elise Varon
Kristine Voelker
Alice W. von Neumann
Joseph F. Vosicky Jr.
Almarie Wagner
David Walker
Susan and Alan Walter
Sue A. Walton
Joan and Alfred Ward
Judith M. Ward
Anna and Tom Wartowski
Bernice S. Wax
Jerry W. Weber
Helen R. Weigle
Bernice Weissbourd
Charlotte Wenzel
Nancy Wherry
Jane and Marvin White
Marlene Winkie
Mr. and Mrs. James Zacharias
Alice and Herb Zarov
Todd and Susan Zeeb
Suzanne and David Zesmer

Happy Anniversary Nancy & Jerry Stermer
Barbara and Jerry Savitt

Happy Birthday Carole Hammer
Elise Varon

In memory of Jules Ebin
Vivian Leith

In memory of Dan Kruse
Vivian Leith

In memory of Alan Sebulsky
Todd and Susan Zeeb

Businesses, Foundations and Corporations

Alberto-Culver Company
Alphagraphics
Amoco Foundation, Inc.
Andersen Consulting
Arthur Andersen / Andersen Consulting
AT&T
Bank One, Illinois, NA
Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated
Chicago Title and Trust Company
CNA Financial Corporation
ComEd
Concord Investment Company
Crain Communications Inc.
Francis Beidler Charitable Trust
GATX Corporation
Harpo Studios
Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund
Household International, Inc.
Jasculca-Terman Associates
Kenneth F. and Harle G. Montgomery Foundation
Mayer, Brown and Platt
McDonald's Corporation
Molex, Inc.
Nicor, Inc.
Northern Trust Company
Philip Morris
Pittway Corporation Charitable Foundation
Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation
Sahara Enterprises
Sara Lee Corporation
Sidley & Austin
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
The Chicago Community Trust
The Harris Foundation
UAL Corp.
Weltman Katz Mikell & Nechtow, Ltd.
WGN Televison
William Blair & Company

If you are not listed and believe you should be or are listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and send a note of correction to:

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN
ATTN: DEVELOPMENT DEPT.
208 S. LASALLE ST.
SUITE 1580
CHICAGO, IL 60604-1103

All corrections will appear in subsequent publications.
Thank you.

Voices for Illinois Children
Board of Directors

Kathleen Halloran, Chair
St. Charles

Eloy Burciaga, Vice Chair
Chicago

Michael D. Freeborn, Vice Chair
Barrington

Jeanne Crowley, Secretary
Chicago

Lorraine Barba
Kenilworth

Margaret R. Blackshere
Park Ridge

Adela Coronado-Greeley
Chicago

James J. Glasser
Lake Forest

Lynn Prothro House
Payson

Sokoni Karanja, Ph. D.
Chicago

George Kelm
Lincolnshire

Frank Kopecky
Springfield

Betty Lazarus
Urbana

Betsy G. Lehman
Chicago

Vivian Leith
Winnetka

Richard Mandel
Chicago

Dianne Meeks
Carbondale

James J. Mitchell III
Frankfort

Martin Nesbitt
Chicago

John E. Rhine
Mount Carmel

Thomas H. Robinson
Moline

Nancy Ronquillo
Bloomington

Nancy Schulte
Chicago

Mickie Silverstein
Highland Park

Brazilian Thurman
DeKalb

Bowen Tucker
Arlington Heights

Helen R. Weigle
Highland Park

Bernice Weissbourd
Evanston

Bonnie Wheeler
Carterville

Robert L. Wolters
Hinsdale

Voices for Illinois Children
Staff

Jerome Stermer
President

Julia Beckman
Director of Administration

Kim Fitzgerald
Community Advocacy Associate

Gaylord Gieseke
Senior Projects Director

Patricia J. Gonzalez
Fiscal Manager

Demece Harvey
Development Associate

Jenea Johnson
Administrative Assistant

Brian Matakis
Project Director

Aniccia Miller
Program Associate

Ami Nagle
Project Director

Marjorie Newman
Communications Associate

Jim Perry
Director of Development

Alan Simpson
Director of Communications

Joan Vitale
Project Director

Interns, Volunteers & Consultants
Lisa Bradford
Lena Cramer
Lisa Petrilli
Julie Sampson
Dan Sprehe

The Voices newsletter is designed by David Eisendrath and printed by Distinctive Impressions, Inc.

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN
208 S. LaSalle Street • Suite 1580
Chicago, Illinois 60604
tel (312) 456-0600
fax (312) 456-0088
e-mail: info@voices4kids.org

Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.voices4kids.org

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, IL
Permit No. 2646